

Two Olympics, equal splendor

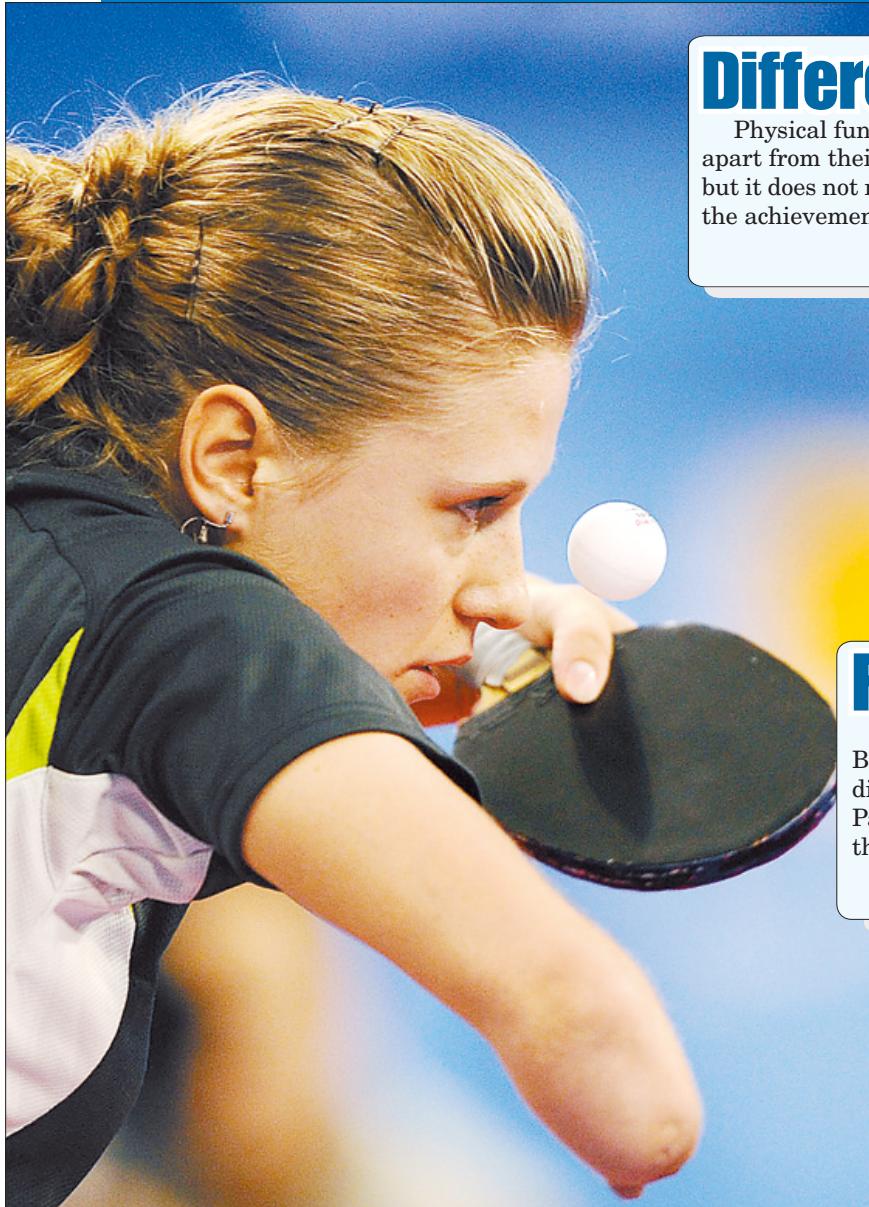
The meaning of the Beijing 2008 Paralympics

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Natalia Partyka of Poland fought hard against Fan Lei during the table tennis finals on Wednesday. Partyka won the gold only weeks after realizing her dream of playing at the Olympic Games. She is the first table tennis player to compete at both the Olympics and Paralympics.

IC Photo

Difference

Physical function sets Paralympians apart from their Olympic counterparts, but it does not mean they cannot match the achievements of the able-bodied.

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Freedom

People who are not physically free get a chance to challenge their limits.

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Fight

Ongoing war in Iraq and in Bosnia has left numbers of soldiers disabled. Some have joined Paralympic teams to fight for their countries again in Beijing.

Page 10

Greatness

Though many broadcasters chose not to air the Paralympics live, its image as the 'poor sister' of Olympics remains powerful and inspiring to VIP viewers.

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School for migrants faces closure



Students know little of the school's demise. Photo by Zheng Lu

By Zheng Lu

"We sent our teachers flowers," said Zhou Rong, a sixth grade student at the Red Star School for Children of Migrant Laborers in Xiaoying Village, Haidian.

It was National Teachers' Day. The students celebrated the festival as other schools did, not knowing their teachers were not certified by the government and the school was struggling to survive.

About half a month ago, the Red Star School had its power and water grids cut off by the Xiaoying village committee. The halt followed a contract between the village committee and businessman Pang Chunlai. Pang chartered the school 10 years ago after renting it from the committee. Recently, the committee decided to withdraw the land and replace the school with a business area.

The committee said Pang abused his lease, which permitted

Pang only to build a business area on the land, and his sublease to use the site as a school broke the contract. Pang refuted by quoting a note on the contract that the land could be sublet, which meant its use could be changed. The parties are now battling it out in court.

"Over 1,400 children are here at school without electricity and water," Xie Zhenqing, the headmaster said. She said it was not understandable that while the two landowners are embroiled in the lawsuit, the school is left without power.

"The students ask us each day when they can have computer class," Xie said. The computer room has been locked up since the power was cut. She said they did not want to give the students too much pressure, "We could only tell them that the things would be fixed soon."

The students have no idea what has happened.

Two fifth-grade girl students were surprised when questioned about how their school is facing demolition.

"Don't demolish our school, or I will have nowhere to go," one said. Another said she would go back to her hometown Anhui for high school, because it is "too expensive to go to school here."

A third grade boy said students have asked why they have to study in a dark, hot classroom. "My teacher told us that landlords were quarreling, so they cut off the power and drew a big 'chai' (demolish) on the wall," he said.

Compared to the boy's carefree expression, his mother was worried. She said if the school is demolished, she will be forced to send her son back to their hometown. "The public schools asked for too high a fee for us to afford. This place is a little shabby, but at least it gives my son access to

education."

An older sixth-grade student understood more. He told reporters he would try to attend another secondary school in Haidian, although there was also junior high in the Red Star School.

"We don't have the money or equipment to get certified as a legal school," Xie, the headmaster said. With the desks and other equipment donated by many schools and foreign companies, the school's support has come entirely from grass roots.

"My original idea was that it is better to offer migrant children a humble place to study than let them run about barefoot," Xie said.

She said she staked her hopes on the government, since schools for migrant children have a 20-year history. "I hope a policy can be made that will give us a clear path to legal status."

First case heard in accessible courtroom

By He Jianwei

New court facilities for disabled persons came in handy during the 40-minute hearing of Qi Baolin, 58, the first person to use the barrier-free facilities at a court near the Paralympic Village last Tuesday.

The courtroom is the city's first disabled-friendly court under the leadership of Chaoyang District People's Court. Construction ended in July.

Qi is paralyzed in his left arm and leg. He sued his former employer, Beijing Dachao Commercial Hotel, which did not make payments into his social security fund, when he worked from December 2004 to April 2005 as a manager.

The hotel, later renamed Beijing Beihu No 9 Commercial Hotel, claimed the former employees did not work for the new company.

Qi asked the arbitration committee in Chaoyang District to intervene in May, but the committee refused to accept his request.

The judge gave both sides a limited time to assemble more evidence and will schedule another hearing.

It was the first case that the court accepted and heard. "Disabled persons' needs were taken into consideration in the court's design. The facilities enabled me to concentrate during the hearing," Qi said.

In front of the building is a barrier-free ramp for wheelchair users. The court includes a toilet for wheelchair users and metal supports along the walls.

The court also provides sign language service for deaf people and a visiting case registration service for people with limited mobility.

So far 10 deaf people have used the sign language service to register their cases.

The court opened special windows for disabled persons to guarantee a short wait time.

No barriers to Forbidden City



Hundreds of disabled tourists from Dongcheng District visited the Forbidden City Wednesday morning. There are several dozens tourists every day who use the new facilities in the palace.

Photo by Flora Geng

First quake-orphan finds a home

By Annie Wei

Zhang Anyun, 10, a Mianzu boy, became the first adopted Sichuan orphan – four months after the disaster.

The adoption process was not smooth, Li Baoshan, a worker at the local civil affairs bureau, said.

Zhang's grandparents did not want the boy to leave. However, they were over 80 and unable to offer shelter. He had two other uncles, but their living conditions have been terrible since the quake. To ensure

Zhang has a chance at a better life, the family finally agreed to allow his adoption.

He will be adopted by a couple in Chengdu, with whom he has lived for some time.

Li Baishan, a Mianzu civil affairs bureau spokesperson, said although many people intended to adopt quake orphans, the number of orphans available is far lower than initially expected. Only a handful of children met the legal qualifications for adoption.

The Sichuan's civil affairs bureau reporter there were 532 children orphaned during the quake. Among them, only 88 under 14-years-old were willing to be adopted.

In Mianzu, one of the most bat-

tered cities, there were 27 orphans and only six are healthy enough to be adopted, Li said.

People hesitated when they learned some orphans had a cleft palate and brain problems when they visited the quake-hit areas from different regions of Sichuan Province and the country, Li said.

Li said the bureau cannot release these orphans' information to public. A family with a one-year-old orphan has been seriously bothered by people who want to adopt the child. The orphan's grandfather had to move to avoid harassment, Li said.

The actress said she experienced a lot in the transition from ordinary girl to famous actress, including wonderful memories and also some pain and hard work. She sang songs for Disney cartoons at first, which created a fairy tale dream for her.

There are many versions of Cinderella, but in this version, one of the biggest differences is humor. "Even Prince Charming and me, the most serious people in the play, have some funny movements and lines," she said. "The musical is for regular theater-goers, and also for family."

Asian Cinderella ready to sing

By Gan Tian

Lea Salonga, the 37-year-old Philippine Broadway actress, returns to Beijing in October to play Cinderella. As one of the few Asian Broadway performers, Salonga has many Cinderella-stories of her own.

Salonga, who arrived Sunday with Peter Saide, the play's Prince Charming, advertised her new show. She and her Prince sang a couple of songs, including *There's Music in You*, one of the highlight songs that took listeners back to childhood. "Every girl has a Cinderella dream in her heart. It helps us to purchase our courage and happiness," Salonga said.

Usually, Broadway's musicals tour America first before heading abroad. However, due to Salonga's achievements on Broadway, the company decided to start from Manila, after which it will head to Shanghai and Beijing. After its Asian tour, *Cinderella* will go back to the US.

Salonga said as an Asian actress, it was not easy for her to win a spot on a white-dominated stage.

She majored in medicine at first, but was tapped by Cameron Mackintosh, who picked her as an actress for his musical. He gave Salonga a role in *Miss Saigon* in 1991, and she became best known for the role of Kim in that musical. "Playing Cinderella is a dream come true for me," she said.

The actress said she experienced a lot in the transition from ordinary girl to famous actress, including wonderful memories and also some pain and hard work. She sang songs for Disney cartoons at first, which created a fairy tale dream for her.

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Coke's buyout bugs the public

By Huang Daohen

Coca-Cola's proposed offer to buy Huiyuan, China's largest juice company, has caused an outcry this week among pundits and public.

The country's domestic juice makers may write a letter to the Ministry of Commerce opposing Coca-Cola's planned US \$2.5 billion bid, China Securities Journal reported Tuesday.

The competing companies said that the acquisition would threaten the survival of other juice makers by giving Coca-Cola half of the sales channels. They suggested Huiyuan should sell its brands and assets via an auction in which domestic competitors can participate, if it plans an asset sale.

The report said it was unclear whether such a protest would work, but said the deal had a good chance of being rejected under China's new anti-monopoly law, which took effect last month.

Coke said last week's offer needed to be approved by the Chinese government.

Experts said the prospects of approval are unclear. "The approval of the acquisition faces many difficulties," Mei Xinyu, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, said.

"There are two main difficulties. One is the large size of the two companies, which will raise

concerns about monopolies," Mei said. "The second is that the brand of Huiyuan is considered protected as a famous domestic brand," he said.

In July, China turned down an offer by US-based private equity company the Carlyle Group to acquire the Xugong Group Construction Machinery Company.

Public points at national pride

While Coca-Cola and Huiyuan both seem satisfied with the deal, the Chinese public thinks otherwise.

In an online poll posted by major portal Sina.com, 80 percent of the 76,000 respondents voted against the acquisition of Huiyuan. Most said the acquisition, if successful, would verge on a foreign capital's attempt to wipe out domestic pillar brands.

Some customers were not bothered by the deal. "This kind of acquisition is very normal. It's OK if the purchase doesn't impact Huiyuan's products," Li Dan, a local resident, said.

"Huiyuan would become a brand under Coca-Cola, which has achieved a major strategic triumph. But it would mean a heavy loss to Chinese domestic brands, which are in crisis now," brand marketing expert Li Guangdou said.

Foreign firms keep an eye on Coke deal

(AFP) - Foreign firms are

keeping a close watch on the fate of Coca-Cola's bid for Chinese juice producer Huiyuan, a European business group said Tuesday.

"Of course, M and A (merger and acquisition) is a very difficult point," Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Chamber of Commerce, said.

"Therefore we are watching

the ongoing Coca-Cola-Huiyuan case very closely to see if it is done legally," Wuttke said.

Foreign firms are often excluded from competing with local companies in areas such as standard setting, infrastructure business and the energy sector even though they offer more advanced technology and lower costs, he said.

US mortgage rescue stabilizes market

China's central bank said on Monday it believed the US government's mortgage rescue plan would put a positive spin on financial market stability.

"We think these measures will have a positive impact on helping stabilize the financial market and lift up investor confidence," Li Chao, spokesman of the People's Bank of China, said.

"The US financial market is closely linked to the world economy and global financial markets. The US government should take responsibility for maintaining financial market stability and protect investors' interests," Li said.

The US government announced on Sunday it would take over the two mortgage giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, in order to stabilize the financial market.

The rescue plan would enable the treasury to purchase mortgage-backed securities from the two firms in the open market. It also included the departure of Fannie Chief Executives Daniel Mudd and Freddie Chairman and CEO Richard Syron.

The US government took action because a failure of either of the two giants would cause great turmoil in both the US and the global financial markets, said Zhang Ming of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a research organization.

"The US subprime mortgage crisis has not ended. The rescue just indicates the seriousness of the problem. We have to wait to see its effect," Zhang said.

The Bank of China, which has the largest exposure among Chinese lenders to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac debt, said it would cut holdings further if necessary.

The bank's spokesman Wang Zhaowen said Tuesday that the bank would closely watch market reaction to the US government's measures.

"If there is need to cut some positions, the bank will do so," Wang said.

(Agencies)

Customs agents charge Chinese exhibits



Hisense and other Chinese exhibitions had a lot of articles confiscated at the German International Consumer Electronics Show (the "IFA"). "Possible patent infringement" was the reason given. German customs agents swooped down on 69 business booths, and confiscated TVs, MP3's and mobile phones.

IC Photo

EU wants China to lighten up

By Han Manman

European companies are generally optimistic about their business dealings in China, but their concerns remain about market access, transparency, intellectual property rights and economic nationalism appears to be a growing concern, according to the annual "European Business in China Position Paper 2008/2009" launched by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Beijing Tuesday.

Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Chamber, said strong

economic growth continues to help the business environment, but trade barriers and investment hurdles are getting more sophisticated and putting foreign businesses at a disadvantage to their Chinese counterparts.

"We have not seen major EU takeovers ... we're lacking good success stories. European business could contribute more to China's economy if our companies shared a level playing field with their domestic competitors," Wuttke said, adding, "When we

call for further improvements in market access, transparency and IPR protection in this Position Paper, we are not just asking for better opportunities for our companies. We also see these improvements as vital for improving EU-China trade relations and for stimulating innovation in the Chinese economy."

"Most importantly, our recommendations would help China build a strong modern economy without paying an unacceptable price in terms of human health

and environmental degradation," Wuttke said.

The president said China also has many positive breakthroughs including legislative steps such as the introduction of the labor contract law, the decision to allow foreign banks to incorporate locally, as well as developments in the petrochemical, energy, refining, telecom and IT sectors.

He said the chamber would also keep a close eye on Coca-Cola's bid for Huiyuan, China's largest juice maker.

The new Position Paper is composed of 29 individual papers prepared by the European Chamber's 23 Working Groups and six Forums. It outlines the views and concerns of European companies in China and sets out what European businesses hope will be seen as constructive proposals for improving the business environment.

The 400-page document will be presented to government and regulatory bodies in China and the EU.

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Large Hadron Collider leaves earth intact



The Large Hadron Collider

LHC actually worked

With the world's largest atom smasher went off Wednesday without a hitch, it paves the way toward the recreation of post-big bang conditions.

The Large Hadron Collider fired a beam of protons inside a circular, 27-kilometer long tunnel underneath villages and cow pastures at the French-Swiss border.

Inside the control room, physicists and engineers cautiously shot the beam down part of the tunnel, stopping it before it went all the way around.

"Oh, we made it through!" one person said as the beam made it through a further section of the tunnel.

One hour after starting up the first attempt to send the beam circling all the way around the

tunnel was successful, bringing raucous applause.

"At first, I didn't believe it," Verena Kain, a European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) engineer, said.

"Things can go wrong at any time, but luckily this morning everything went smoothly," said Lyn Evans of CERN, who oversaw the construction.

Birth of the Universe

The collider "was first proposed more than 20 years ago," Django Manglunki, an accelerator physicist at CERN, said on Tuesday. "We've been preparing that beam for more than 10 years."

"It's difficult to realize that the machine is operating now," he said.

By creating hundreds of thousands of head-on collisions each second, physicists hope to under-

By Huang Daohen

The end is near. Will man-made black holes swallow the earth?

Some people are worried that Wednesday's first experiment of the large hadron collider (LHC), the world's largest atom smasher in a lab near Geneva, will create unwelcome discoveries, such as particles and other exotic phenomena that could swallow up the Earth.

The Earth didn't move, or even twitch. And it certainly didn't end – after all, you are reading this.



Xinhua Photos

Chinese scientists say LHC is safe

By Venus Lee

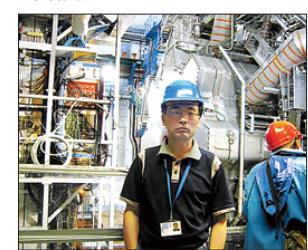
Chinese scientists have participated in the engineering of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) since the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) had launched the project, and assumed part of research task concerning two detectors CMS and ATLAS.

Jin Shan, the ATLAS chief of Chinese team, said that Chinese scientists this time mainly took part in the research of CMS and ATLAS detectors. There were near 100 Chinese researchers participate in the LHC project.

Claims the LHC might destroy the planet are unfounded and unsubstantiated, Jin said.

"Those who raise such doubt against the LHC are scientists in other fields who have little knowledge about the Particle Physics," Jin said, adding that it was understandable that people were dreadful when they talked about mysterious things like black holes.

Conditions similar to the LHC experiment occur almost every day in the atmosphere, only this time it was manmade, he said.



Ouyang Qun, one of the Chinese scientists involved with the LHC.

stand the fiery conditions of the universe a trillionth of a second after the big bang.

The findings could also help resolve some of the biggest mysteries in physics, such as the existence of one long-hypothesized particle called the Higgs boson – thought to be responsible for giving all other particles their mass.

No cause for alarm

Referring to people's worries on the man-made black hole, reviews by both CERN physicists and independent researchers argue that, even if such black holes do form, there's no reason for alarm.

"Collisions just like those (the atom-smasher) will make have been produced by cosmic rays bombarding the Earth throughout its existence," a statement from the American Physical Society stated.

The most energetic cosmic rays are particles that pack much more energy than those in the Large Hadron Collider – so much so that physicists still aren't sure how the most powerful cosmic rays take form.

Steve Giddings, a physicist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is actually hoping miniature black holes do show up, along with other evidence supporting string theory – an unproven theory that describes subatomic particles as though they are tiny vibrating strings.

"It would be extremely exciting to see string properties directly. And that is possible if there are extra dimensions of space that are configured just the right way," Giddings said.

(National Geographic News)

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Shichahai Sports School attracts budding sports stars



Students are trained in gymnastics class at Shichahai Sports School.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

After China won 51 gold medals last month at the Olympic Games, Beijing Shichahai Sports School famous for Chinese gold medalists like Zhang Yining, the ping pong queen and gymnast He Kexin, attracted the attention of parents across the country.

The school said that the number of students for short-term training doubled after the Games, which left no extra accommodations for students who wanted to study and live at the school.

For some parents, sending their kids to a sports school makes them believe they might end up with the next Michael Phelps. The school warns such parents to be realistic.

Wang Zhijian, the head coach of gym-

nastics said gymnasts peak around age of 16, so they need to start training at 5 or 6 to be a pro. If a child gets too fat or too tall, they might not be suitable for this sport.

Apart from professional training, the school also offers nine different sports activities to foreign students who just want to enjoy the game.

These sports include Wushu, ping pong, gymnastics, Taekwondo, badminton, volleyball, boxing and tennis.

There is an age limit for entrance. Most students are accepted into the school from ages six to 10. Students cannot be younger than five and a half years old for gymnastics. Students older than 10 are welcome.

The school also has professional training but only open as an education exchange. Foreign students who come for

such professional training are organized by sports clubs they attended in their home country.

Zhang Lili, responsible for foreign students' enrollment in Beijing, said they accept students for amateur courses. Interested students should call the school for more detailed information on specific courses.

Schedule: 9:11 am or 3:30-5:30 pm, Monday to Friday; (weekend courses available, as well)

Cost: 128 yuan per class lasting 1.5 or 2 hours; for short-term studying, the school has three-star hotel accommodation, four-hour training per day and three meals, which costs 600 yuan per day.

Where: 57, Di'anmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng

Tel: 6618 8831

Hip-hop comes to Happy Valley

By Zhang Dongya

This weekend welcomes the mid-autumn holiday in China and a hip-hop festival will be held at Happy Valley from Saturday to Monday.

Rappers and dance crews including Zoo Nation, who were seen in the London eight-minute performance in the closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games, will be at the festival.

More than 20 rappers and 30 dance crews will show their stuff.

Rappers include some popular local crews like Yincang, Uranus and Hip-hop Park, as well as M2 & Skeewe and XYL from Canada. Besides the London-based Zoo Nation, SPY, the country's first street dance crew with girls will share the stage with all the other dance crews. DJ Motiv8 from the US, who is well-known as the producer of the Black Eyed Peas will fire up the festival.

To celebrate the traditional holiday, some classic Mid-Autumn Festival songs will be reinvented by the rappers.

With the traditional Chinese riddles written on lanterns in graffiti style, and the remixing of street dance with Tai-chi and Kungfu, the traditional Chinese culture will be flavored with more modern style.

All hip-hop-styled clothing including T-shirts, shirt, shorts, trousers jeans and work clothes, as well as accessories like necklaces and trouser chains will all be sold in the market.

Extreme-sports like rollerblading, skateboarding and BMX cycling will make for a dynamic show and challenge the participants' limits.

During the holiday, the night carnival will be held after 6 pm every day. The admission for the whole day and night is 160 yuan per person, and 60 yuan for night-time only.

Where: Happy Valley, Xiaowuji Bei Lu, East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang

Open: 8:30 am - 10 pm, 6-10 pm

Tel: 6738 3333

Beijing's tourism spots designed for the disabled

By Zhang Dongya

Ten historical sight locations in Beijing, including the Imperial Palace and the Badaling Great Wall, have completed the construction of accessible facilities for the disabled. Ramps and elevators are available in scenic areas to serve disabled travelers.

During the Paralympic Games, the Badaling Great Wall provided special services such as wheelchair-rental, sign language and tour guides who speak both Chinese and English. Disabled people who wish to visit the Badaling Great Wall call 6912 1226 to reserve service.

Special volunteers will guide and help disabled visitors on their tours. Accessible parking spaces are also available.

However, to protect cultural relics, all the accessible lifts and ramps will be removed after the Paralympics.

From last Sunday, disabled people can borrow wheelchairs at volunteer service sites in downtown areas like Xidan, Shichahai and the Beijing Zoo. The wheelchairs provided are different from the common ones, and are more portable and convenient.

In addition, disabled people can watch the latest films like *The Incredible Hulk* (2008) for free at Jinyi Cinema during the Paralympics. The cinema is located in the New Zhongguan Shopping Center, Haidian District. It is equipped with accessible ramps, seats and disabled accessible toilets. People interested can call 8248 6806 ext 801 or 820 for details.

Mailing moon cakes abroad

By Gan Tian

In the past two weeks, delivery boys standing at reception desks with boxes of moon cakes was a common scene.

No matter if one likes the taste or not, it is an important part of Mid-Autumn festival.

However, to dispense moon cakes outside the country is more complicated than calling EMS. In fact, only two places have the authority to provide moon cakes mailing abroad.

The Beijing International Post Office, one branch of the Beijing Post Office, has two outlets. One is the Jianguomen International Post Office, also called Yabaolu post office, and another is at the Capital Airport.

Yan Kejie, the president of the Jianguomen Branch of the Beijing International Post Office, said most of the moon cakes delivered abroad are traditional brands like Quanjude and Fangshan. The number of moon cakes delivered abroad has decreased in recent years due to strict delivery limitations.

Twenty-two countries ban import of moon cakes. They are India, Indonesia, Germany, Denmark, France, Brazil, Qatar, Spain, Hungary, Belgium, Russia, Congo, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay, Czechoslovakia, the

Philippines, Singapore, Estonia, Switzerland, Myanmar, Mexico and Korea.

Countries accept mooncakes

The US

The exporter should first register and report to the FDA and mark the FDA's authorization number on the delivery sheet and receipt. He or she should also fax the FDA's authorization documents to the post office's service center before 4 pm on the delivery date.

Japan

Moon cakes cannot contain meat, egg and milk products. Package weighing more than 5 kilograms need both the sender and the receiver to provide inspection certification and proof of origin. Packages under 5 kilograms do not need the above, but the person mailing must mark down the valid date and the contents of the cakes.

The UK

Milk, butter and meat products should not be contained in the moon cakes. The receiver should provide a Certificate of Quarantine from the local Inspection and Quarantine Authority. The product should only be imported as dry goods and the valid date of the snack should not exceed one month.

Holland

Milk, meat and honey products in moon



Post office helps to sell moon cakes during the festival.

CFP Photo

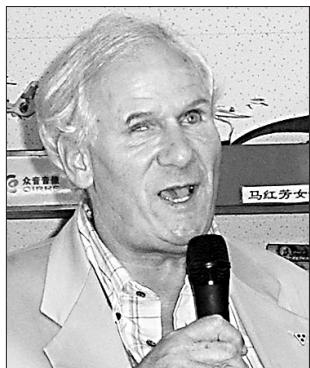
cakes are not allowed. No more than 10 moon cakes can be shipped at once with a maximum value of 22. It should be marked as a personal gift. The addresses of the mailer and receiver should be personal.

Other countries like Italy, Sweden, Malaysia, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Vietnam require the mailing should be marked as a personal gift. The addresses of the sender and receiver should be personal addresses. Moon cakes with egg, meat, fish or honey inside are not allowed.

Where: Jianguomen branch: 200 meters north of Jianguomen Qiao, Chaoyang

Tel: 6512 8120

Blind president sets his sights on the Paralympics



Max Ott
Photo by Zhang Dongya

By Zhang Dongya

To Max Ott, the title of "doctor" on his name card means much more than it may for any other doctor, since he was blind from the age of 11. Ott has many

labels to show his peculiar experiences, for example, the first blind college student in Salzburg, Austria, and a blind lawyer.

Ott, 63, born in Salzburg, Austria and serving as the president of the Blind Sports Federation of his hometown Salzburg, Austria, visited the Chinese organization for the blind Hongdandan and shared experiences with them Tuesday afternoon.

When he was 11 years old, he lost his sight. But he continued to study, first in a blind school and then at college majoring in law with sighted students. At that time, Ott became the first blind college student in Salzburg and the second in Austria. Later, he received his doctorate in law and worked for a milk product company as an business lawyer

in charge of the hiring management for the company.

Asked how he could manage to interview the employees, Ott said proudly, "They did not know I was blind! I had my own office and an assistant. Before an potential employee came in, my assistant would read his resume and materials for me." Since Ott had studied and worked with sighted people for a long time, he himself gradually behaved as natural as they. "I 'looked at' them, and we talked, smoothly and naturally," Ott said. He also remembered once in college, a professor asked him to read a paragraph in a book and he had to tell him, "Sorry, I cannot see."

"With the screen-reading software in a computer, we can learn news from the Internet

just like everybody else," he said, "In addition the law ensures a disabled person can acquire employment in my country. According to the regulations, every 15 employees in the company should include one disabled and for the blind, the ratio is about 30:1." A company not following this regulation is fined and the penalty fee is donated to the blind.

This time around, Ott visited Beijing to support the blind athletes in the Paralympic Games, and he said his only job here was "to smile." Since his hobby is collecting worldwide architecture models, he aimed to add more to his collection besides the miniatures of the Great Wall, the Taihe Palace and Zhonghe Palace of the Forbidden City.

Former Paralympian champ cheers on athletes

By Zheng Lu

"If it had not been for my handicapped legs, it might have been an ordinary waste of my life." That was the answer Gregory Burns once gave to a presumption of him being disabled.

Speaker, artist and author, as he labels himself on his Web site, Burns is also a three-time Paralympian who has set four world records and won six gold and silver medals. He is also the first retainer of five world records in Paralympics history. As he said, his alter-egos did not lead his life into waste.

Though he retired after competing in the Sydney Paralympic Games, Burns still disabled athletes. This time, he came to Beijing with his recent series of paintings titled "Olympic & Paralympic Heroes" now exhibited at the Creation Art Gallery.

"It was my way to salute the efforts of all the athletes and to promote better understanding and access for people with disabilities," Burns said.

As a swimmer for the US team, he has won medals in swimming pools from Barcelona to Sydney. His swimming life began at the age of three, two years after being diagnosed with polio. It seemed the disease did not hinder his love for life. "I believe in living a balanced life of body, mind and spirit. Sports is how I maintain a strong body and it keeps my spirit strong."

Actually he has led a fuller life than most able-bodied people. Having parents in the US Foreign Service, Burns contracted the disease when they served in the Middle East during the late 1950s.

He also enjoyed his childhood in the White House. "While Eisenhower was president, by an interesting twist of fate, I was

able to swim in the White House pool in Washington D.C." That was where Burns took his first swimming lessons and played cowboys and Indians with secret service staff.

Burn's motto is "Trust ourselves and discover what we are capable of doing." He has become an experienced traveler on his crutches and braces. He left his footprints on five continents. "I am more mobile than many folks because I've always had the urge to visit the unknown and do what others thought I couldn't accomplish. In fact, I find in more difficult to stay put."

His rich and colorful wandering life in return inspires his art creations. Burns has specialized in painting contemporary pieces abstracted from the landscapes and architectural images that he has observed on his extensive travels. Chinese icons are often found in his paintings as well. His series of paintings depicting Olympic and Paralympic athletes are juxtaposed with hints of China's unique elements.

Still fresh with the feelings and memories of the competition, "I put forth these paintings in a parallel effort to all the athletes who will push their limits during the summer of 2008," Burns said.

Before the exhibition, he became the Paralympic ambassador of BHP Billiton, a sponsor for the Paralympics. In the community activities for children to experience Paralympic competition items, Burns helped to expand the knowledge about such sports to children in China. According to him, "Children should pay more attention to the athletes' achievements instead of their disabilities."

He said he hopes the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics will be embraced by all.



Gregory Burns

Photo by Angie Tan H H

Mini Paralympics scaled down

By Jackie Zhang

It is named the Mini-Paralympic Games, but it is quite different from the familiar Paralympics. It is of smaller scale and both able-bodied and disabled people are included. The sports "competitions" are mostly for fun.

Yesterday, the Mini-Paralympic Games took place at the venues at the National Paralympics Training Center. As many as 200 "young advocates" from China, Britain, the US, Israel, Jordan, Bulgaria, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan joined in the Games as part of the British Council's Young Advocate's Program (YAP).

YAP delivers intensive training to young people from different countries to enhance their employability and ability, and gives them the chance to act as advocates for the Paralympic spirit.

Five workshops are included in the program: the 100 words workshop, film making and digital media workshop, communication through creativity workshop, sport science workshop and the leadership and organization workshop.

The games were designed and organized by a group of 60 young advocates. Last Sunday, they gathered and spent the next four days designing the sports items which would be included in the games. Joanne Buchanan-Smith, the trainer from Youth Sport Trust (YST) in the UK, led the team and inspired it to design interesting and creative matches.

"Thirty able-bodied and disabled young people are on the team. However, there aren't many differences in training healthy and disabled people," Smith said. They do the same activities as many other countries and regions in the world.

To let all the young people use their imaginations and vent their creative ideas, Smith said little but told them what to accomplish. "We use the most ordinary and common objects in our daily life to create sports items, such as different kinds of balls, balloons or bottles. It requires deeper thinking to come up with creative ideas." Smith thought the Mini-Paralympics was not about winning. "People who play the sports more creatively or with a free spirit will be rewarded. The process is more important than the results."

But, it's not only a matter of developing young people's creative ability and competing fairly, but also of creating the atmosphere to work together closely.

"Disabled people used to close themselves off. They had difficulties in communicating. Also able-bodied people usually didn't know how to approach us and speak to us," Miro Griffiths, the youngest member of the newly-created UK Advisory Network on Disability Equality, said. He was born with infantile paralysis and has to rely on a wheelchair. "But everyone in the workshop collaborated with each other quite well. We are creating new ways of playing sport."

What makes the Paralympics different

By Huang Daochen

Physical function sets the participants in the Paralympics apart from their counterparts at the Olympics. Though crashes and concussions continually occur during the competition, it does not mean disabled people cannot match the achievements of able-bodied Olympians.



A re-do of the women's 5,000m T54 race will be held today after Monday's wheelchair crash.

Xinhua Photos

Crashes unpredictable, not uncommon

By Jin Zhu

Unlike the Olympics, many athletes in the Paralympics rely on their equipment during the competitions, such as wheelchairs and artificial limbs.

Race rescheduled after wheelchair crash

During the women's 5,000m T54 class race on Monday, six of the 11 racers crashed and piled up on the track. All of the tumbled athletes did not finish the race. After the competition, three countries including Australia, the US and Switzerland appealed for the re-run of the race. The prior results will be thrown out and the

event will be held again on September 12.

Chris Cohen, chairperson of IPC Athletes, said at a press conference that the decision to hold the medal ceremony despite protests was absolutely wrong. He also said it was unusual for them to not take the crash more seriously.

In this serious and dramatic crash, the tumbled athletes' actions of getting off track deeply moved the crowd. When the wheelchair crash occurred, six athletes tumbled down. In order to ensure no obstruction, the athletes removed themselves quickly instead of waiting for

help. After finishing the race, one athlete went back to comfort the ones who fell.

Tumbling after winning gold

Paula Tesoriero, a 33-year-old cyclist from New Zealand, not only set a new world record but also tumbled just moments after winning gold in the 500m time-trial of the LC3-4/CP3 category in the Paralympics Monday.

Tesoriero won the 500m time-trial in a record 43.281 seconds, just ahead of German rider Natalie Simanowski with Australia's Jayme Paris third. But shortly after crossing the finish line,

as Tesoriero was cycling up the embankment to wave to family and spectators, her handlebars turned down abruptly and she fell off her bike, landing on the ground with her jaw bleeding and dazed. A hush fell over the stands, and everyone was stunned to see her tumbling.

Tesoriero was not able to speak until she was moved to a stretcher. At that moment, the screen showed the new world record and announced Tesoriero's gold. Tesoriero looked at the screen, and burst into tears. Her mother, who was about to hand over a national flag for celebration, fixed her eyes

on her daughter and kept wiping away tears.

When asked whether she could participate in the following medal ceremony, Tesoriero struggled to stand up with the support of two medical assistants, and won unanimous applause from the whole stadium.

"I cannot remember how I fell. I was very happy with the result when I saw somebody trying to give me a New Zealand flag," Tesoriero said in an interview after competition. "It really hurts, but the happiness of success made me feel much better, and even let me forget the pain."

Athletes with cerebral palsy take on boccia

By Wang Yu

To most of the spectators in the Fencing Hall of National Convention Center, boccia is an unfamiliar sport. Athletes using wheelchairs throw balls at a certain area and referees measure the distance between balls of certain colors. But cheers still were heard at appropriate times and spectators quickly caught onto the rules.

Joao Paulo Fernandes, winner of two gold medals, turned his head back with much difficulty while his body sloped to the front. The stiffness was caused by his excessive nervousness, and his only way to loosen up again was with the coach's help.

In the final of Mixed Individual - BC1, Fernandes was excited and once again lost control of his body. He could not even throw the ball

after securing his championship.

Fernandes and his team from Portugal claimed six medals at the 2004 Paralympics. With its experienced athletes, the team dominated the lead again.

A surprise victory came in the finals between Nigel Murray of Britain and Kwok Hoi-ying of Hong Kong in the Mixed Individual BC2. Kwok lost three points at the beginning set. But the lady showed her composure and fought back with precise throws to defeat the 44-year-old British rival 5-3.

"It feels like I lost the gold rather than won the silver," Murray told BBC.

South Korea's Park Keon-woo who at the age of 18 won her Paralympics medal by defeating Grigoris Polychronidis of Greece was knocked down in the BC3 category.

The Brazilian player Dirceu Pinto won the final of the BC4. About 1,000 spectators in the Fencing Hall sang the birthday song to him on September 9, though he did not realize the date because of the time change between China and Brazil.

Wang Yi, a 45-year-old Chinese athlete born with cerebral palsy made his debut at the Paralympics. He had high expectations after he ranked fourth place in the Mixed Individual - BC1.

Wang was born in an ordinary family and earned fame as a "chess master" when he won the Beijing Chinese Chess Championships and became the first with cerebral palsy to beat able-people in the country.

From September 7-12, the boccia competition attracted 62 men and 26 women athletes from 20 countries and regions.



Joao Paulo Fernandes won a gold for Portugal.

The game is one of the three sports that don't have a corresponding match in the Olympics. Planning and strategy is required while playing boccia and the game helps develop hand-eye coordination and aids people with cerebral palsy in both physical and mental recovery.

Doping test controversies dog the Games

By Jin Zhu

Naveed Ahmed Butt, a power lifter from Pakistan, failed a doping test after testing positive for the steroid methandienone metabolites, the International Paralympics Committee (IPC) announced on Tuesday. It was the first offense at the Beijing Paralympics.

According to a statement from the IPC, "In accordance with the

IPC anti-doping code, and after hearing from the IPC anti-doping committee, the IPC ratified the decision to disqualify Butt from the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games." The Pakistani is now banned from competing for two years.

The IPC said it plans about 1,100 in-and-out-of-competition tests on both blood and urine. Peter Van de Vliet, the IPC's medical and scientific director, said it

was the first time to employ the testing rules, which were laid down at the Paralympics Winter Games in Torino.

Doping offenses happen in almost every popular sporting event. However, because of the complicated situation with disabled athletes, especially in distinguishing drug use, a positive result is almost always controversial.

Sergio Perez, an experienced

judoka from Cuba, won the Paralympic gold in the men's 60kg category in 2004, but was stripped of his title after testing positive for the banned steroid prednisolone. Perez explained he had just taken a type of medicine. "The medicine is no longer considered a banned drug," he said in an interview at the Beijing Paralympics.

Thomas Oelsner, a German ski star, had also been stripped of two

gold medals after the doping test at the Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Zhao Jian, director of Doping Test Center in the Paralympics, said it was possible for some disabled athletes to fail tests because of their daily medication. "However, according to the World Anti-Doping Code, rules must be the same for all athletes," he said.



Racer battles the elements.

Freedom of mind is a gift for all



Victory on wheels.



Guide as excited as the athletes.

IC Photo



The Paralympic spirit has wings. IC Photo



Amputee archer eyes the target.

Xinhua Photos



Special prosthetic gives ping pong player the edge.

By Zhang Dongya
The Paralympians profoundly demonstrated strong will and outstanding courage to the world.

Though their bodies are in some way disabled, their minds are ever sharp. In sport, they are as free as the birds in the sky. Freedom of mind is the same for both the disabled and able-bodied when pursuing dreams and goals.

Maimed soldiers fight for another 'war'



Bosnia and Herzegovina aims high this time in volleyball match during the 2008 Beijing Paralympics.

CFP Photo

Landmine survivor confident he can defend title

By Venus Lee

During the first two group games of men's sitting volleyball, Ermin Jusufovic and his team members lead Bosnia and Herzegovina National team to advance into the semifinals. They were champions of the Athens Paralympics and they were ambitious to defend their championship at Beijing Paralympic Games.

A landmine survivor

Ermin was born in Banja Luka, the second largest city of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the flame of war pervaded each city of the country from 1992

to 1995. In 1997, 15-year-old Ermin Jusufovic stepped on an unseen landmine when he was helping his family cut firewood near their home in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The explosion resulted in the amputation of his right leg below the knee.

After the accident, returning to school was very difficult for the 10th grader. He said that it was an emotional for him to see his classmates again. But his homeroom teacher encouraged him to continue his schooling and helped him graduate with the rest of his class.

Ermin was invited to a rehabilitation center with other young landmine survivors to receive physical rehabilitation. While at the center, Ermin became friends with another survivor from his hometown of Tuzla who played sitting volleyball. The boy encouraged Ermin to join the club's team after rehabilitation.

Sports take him more

Ermin said the sport gave him second life. He played for his local team for two years before being invited to join the Bosnia-Herzegovina National Team. He said, those years were the most fruit-

ful and intense of his life, each training session was a challenge, and he worked very hard to earn a spot as a starting player on the National Team.

Today, Ermin supports his family by playing volleyball professionally for both his local team, SPID, and the National Team.

Sitting Volleyball enjoy popular

Events like volleyball and basketball are very popular throughout Bohemia. After the Bosnian war, some disabled veterans began to play font volleyball, and since then the event has become

more popular. Mirza Hrustemic, the head coach of Bosnia and Herzegovina National team, said the number of sitting volleyball clubs in Bosnia has increased from three before the war to 30 in recent years.

In the club, Ermin trains four to five times with his teammates every week. He said the players encourage and console each other and face hardship together.

The head coach Mirza said the team received support from all sides, although the sponsors are too few. The members have no injuries and their morale is high.

Paralyzed veteran Scott Winkler, talented Paralympian

By Venus Lee

Scott Winkler, 35, is one of two on the US team with combat-related injuries, suffered while serving in Iraq. The Games are a vital part of his recovery from the war, and his participation is regarded as a product of growing effort to get veterans involved with Paralympic sport in the US. He will participate in the F54/F55 shot put in Beijing Paralympic Games.

Injured in the Iraq war

Winkler joined the army a few years after high school and became a service technician. In the late 1990s, he took a two-year break from the army, but returned after he decided it was where he belonged. But in 2003, Winkler was hurt during his military service in Tikrit, Iraq, where he fell off an ammo truck while holding 50 pounds of ammunition. His foot was stuck in a strap and his torso completely rotated, severing his spinal cord.

He now works with other veterans at the VA, where he's Hospital Chairman of the Paralyzed Veterans Association. The com-

bination of sincerity and talent has made Winkler a local hero in Augusta Georgia. He spends much of his time inspiring disabled children and anyone else he can. His motto is, "If you believe, you can achieve."

Winkler overcame adversity by discovering a natural talent for adaptive sports after his paralysis. Exposed to discus and shot put at the 2006 USOC Paralympic Military Sports Camp, coaches immediately noticed Winkler had talent in shot put and javelin.

First Paralympic journey

To participate in the Beijing Paralympic Games is Wilkler's first Paralympic journey. The facilities are great and he cannot help but be excited to compete in such a good venue and to be applauded and encouraged by so many, he said.

But as for the Paralympic Games, Winkler doesn't care about the results – what concerns him is making the most of each day in Beijing. He won't regret if he does his best. He said, the Paralympic Games belong to each participant, so he will make every effort. Many excellent par-

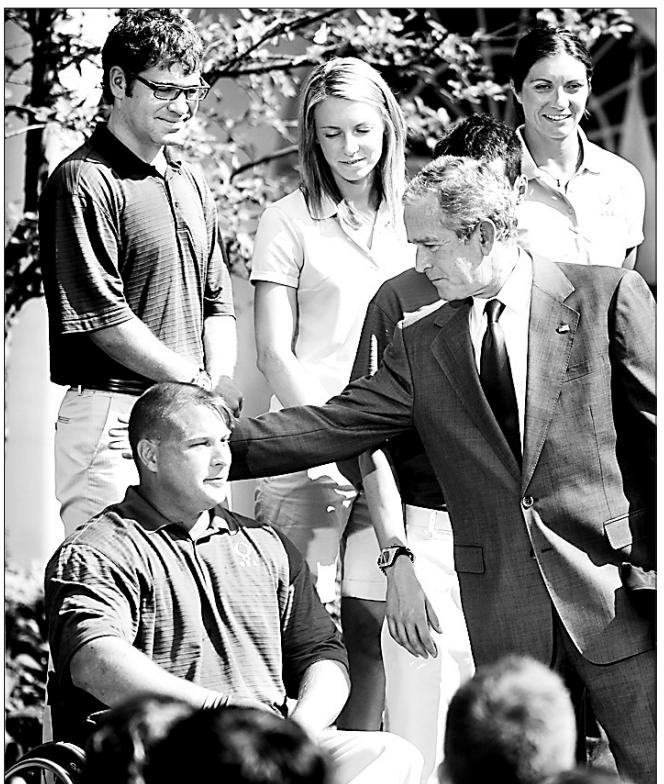
ticipants show their best, so it all comes down to who can do better on competition day, he said.

Wilker's first event is next Monday. He said he will train hard before that, he will train hard and enjoy the Games.

A special corps in the Games

The US Paralympic delegation dispatched more than 200 athletes to participate in the Games. They will take part in 18 of the 20 events. Among them, there are 18 military veterans on the team, two of whom are from the Iraq war and will compete in women's swimming and men's shot put.

The Times reported there are 400 amputees among the nearly 16,000 US troops wounded since the invasion began. An unprecedented number of troops are returning from Iraq with missing limbs, which has given the US Paralympic Team an unexpected recruitment boost. More than 60 potential recruits have already been identified in sports as power lifters, archers and ping pong players.



US President George W Bush greets Scott Winkler during a ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House on July. CFP Photo

Paralympics hardly second place

By Milo Lee

"During the 12 days of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, you will realize that the differences that you might have thought existed in the world are in fact, far less apparent," Philip Craven, president of the International Paralympic Committee, told Paralympians and spectators at the opening ceremony of the 13th Paralympic Games.

In the minds of many, disabled people are at a considerable disadvantage and require more care. But with the Paralympics halfway over, few could

say the competitions are any less splendid and enjoyable than the Olympics.

The athletes' persistence and bravery made the event not only exciting, but encouraging. Paralympians showed the world that no special treatments are needed, and they are just as excellent and outstanding as their Olympic peers.

During the Games, a disabled athlete wheeled himself into the training grounds, the volunteer standing nearby - his help not needed. Many accused him of being careless, but the volunteer

said, "The athlete did not ask for help, and out of respect, I did not offer it."

A friendly smile or encouraging look is enough. Unnecessary assistance is an insult.

There are as many as 600 million disabled people in the world. More than anything, they need people to acknowledge that they can live a great life by their own effort. In China, people consider helping disabled person a virtue. Now, more and more have realized that helping them is a show of pity, and that what they need is equal treatment and respect.

In the opening ceremony, Paralympic gold medalist Hou Bin pulled himself up with his blue-veined bare hands to light up the main torch. He ascended 40 meters straight up in 165 exhausting grips. Many cried when they saw his perseverance and tenacity. Hou said what he did originated from the spirit of human struggle and he wanted to spread it to every corner of the world. Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) said the disabled torch bearer challenging his limits is where the Paralympic spirit lays.

I want to see more Paralympics

(Vancouver Sun) - A striking, visual example of man's ability to overcome adversity, the symbolism behind Paralympic gold medalist Hou Bin's exhausting climb was not lost on anyone in the Bird's Nest stadium, John Furlong, CEO of the Vancouver Olympic organizing committee, said.

It is a shame, he said, that more people could not see it.

Many broadcasters around the world choose not to televise the Opening Ceremony. Taped programs lack the flash and pizazz of live broadcasts, Furlong said, sending a message to the public that they are not that important.

Many broadcasters are not broadcasting any of the Paralympics live, choosing instead to show taped highlights.

Furlong, who watched the Opening Ceremony inside the 91,000-seat Bird's Nest from a seat directly behind Chinese President Hu Jintao, said he wants the Vancouver Paralympics to be seen live, by everyone.

"You cannot confine this kind of message to 91,000 people in the stands, 910,000 people in a city, 91 million people in a country or even 910 million people around the world," he said.

"I want to see more Paralympic Games on TV. It has to be seen because the message is so powerful and inspiring."

Even though Paralympic viewership has grown, it remains something of a poor sister to the Olympics, which generates thousands of hours of live coverage from broadcasters around the globe.

In Canada, for example, the CBC only broadcast an average two hours a day on September 6, 7, 13 and 14. It covered the three-hour Opening Ceremony with one hour of programming.

The CBC's French network will show two hours of Paralympic events on the afternoons of September 20 and 21.

But even that is better than in the US, where NBC - the broadcaster for the Olympics and one of the biggest bankrolls for the International Olympic Committee - is not interested in the Paralympics because it does not turn a profit.

By comparison, the main broadcasters in Spain, Brazil, Germany, China and South Africa all are providing extensive live coverage. Others are creating daily highlight packages.

To help fill the void, the International Paralympic Committee, which does not have the same cachet as the IOC, has taken to broadcasting coverage on its own Internet television channel, paralympicsport.tv. It is already providing 150 hours of event coverage, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Thank you, audiences

By Huang Daohen
Jiri Jezek of the Czech Republic bowed to audiences after he won the Men's Individual Pursuit (LC2) on Monday. As athletes claim titles and break records at the ongoing Beijing Paralympics, enthusiastic spectators win equal applause for having the same flair and presence.

Photo by Jia Ting



Celebrities comment on Paralympics

Compared to the 17-day timetable of the Beijing Olympic Games, the Paralympics is only 12 days long. But that does not mean the ferocity of the competitions is any less. The Paralympics are halfway over, and comments on the Games are leaking into major media coverage.

Samaranch: the best Games in history

Honorary IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said China has hosted the best Games in the Olympic history and sent his regards to the people.

Samaranch said Beijing had the best conditions for Paralympians to perform, that it is an honor for disabled people and will encourage them to participate in sport.

"All Chinese people must be very proud of the great success of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games," said 88-year-old Samaranch in an exclusive interview with Xinhuanet.com in

Beijing Tuesday. "The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games have been the best success, but only for China, but for the Olympic Movement as well," Samaranch said.

Two conditions have made the Beijing Olympic Games a great success. One is the excellent preparation; the other, the excellent results of the Chinese team, he said.

Paralympic chief praises the Paralympics

Sir Philip Craven, president of the International Paralympic Committee, said the standard of competition and the hugely supportive crowds have been amazing.

"The shooting range was very quiet and the cycling was spectacular. I'm very proud the British team has won three gold medals," he said.

"When I was watching judo, the hairs on my arms were stand-

ing up," he said, "It was also obvious that the local fans were keen to create a party atmosphere. The spectators have been amazing and the atmosphere in the venues is really lively. They support everyone, not just the Chinese athletes. At the cycling event I saw Chinese fans applauding a Japanese athlete."

Craven said he was pleased to see the Beijing Paralympics was a catalyst for China's barrier-free development.

"When the facilities are accessible, you do not really notice them. That is what I have found in Beijing, and great progress has been made."

Paralympics brings society close to disabled

The most important thing Paralympic Games achieves is that it brings society close to the disabled, Spyros Stavrianopoulos, president of the Greece Paralympic Committee, said.

Stavrianopoulos watched the opening ceremony on Saturday night. "It was wonderful. It is really a beautiful opening ceremony with good quality and strong spirituality," he said. "It was something we could expect, thinking about the very long cultural heritage and traditions of China."

When asked how the opening ceremony of Beijing Paralympics compared to Athens in 2004, the president said, "I would never be able to compare two beautiful women, just because one is blonde and one is brownette. Both women are beautiful."

"I'd like to say for a country to organize very good Olympics and Paralympics and achieve so many medals and success is a great achievement. But it is not all. Every big sports event is also a big social event, and it's important to know the message it tells the society," he said.

For Stavrianopoulos, that message is that disabled people are an important part of society.



Exhibition

Border of Virtuality

"Border of Virtuality" by the Chinese and Korean media artists reveals a mix of Occidental and Oriental culture. The Greek three graces have beautiful figures of Asian woman; the Asian Ukiyoe combine European car designs and African body painting; Bible, Buddhist Sutra and Koran are written in the tongue of the Canine Monk. The Asian culture took the modern forms from the West to show a tolerance, which is not simply reproduction and appropriation but the Taoist ideal of harmony on earth.

Where: HAN JI YUN Contemporary Space, A1 Beigao, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang
When: Until October 3, daily 11 am – 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6434 0266

Two-Way Communication Beijing – Movana Chen Solo Project

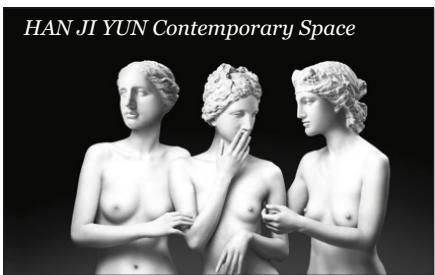
Movana Chen used magazines and a shredding machine as her main art production tools. She produces performances, fashion and architectural structures using the shredder to transform print media into a useful textile, and then painstakingly knits the shreds together.

The simple act of shredding and knitting magazines is in itself a defiant act of resistance to consumer culture. By recycling disposable consumer commodities into new forms of artistic expression, she asks, "Where and when are magazines still useful?" Her art practice of knitting and reconstructing questions the original language of the magazines, subverting their message in an alternative means of "reading" print media.

Where: Pékin Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi, Chaoyang
When: Until October 31, daily except Monday and Tuesday 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3220

Liu Yuan Photographic Exhibition

Liu Yuan has been to the South and North Pole with persistence and experience. The exhibition shows what he saw along his journey.



HAN JI YUN Contemporary Space

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Until September 26, 9 am – 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6400 6326

Clan of the World Edge – Liu Zhicheng Photographic Exhibition

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Until September 26, 9 am – 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6400 6326

Heart Moves Before Body – Yu Bogong Exhibition

Where: Magician Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until November 4, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9635, 8709 3557

The Practicer of Socialism

Where: Soka Art Center, B103 Sky & Sea Business Plaza, 107 Dongsi Bei Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Until September 26, daily 10 am – 9 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8401 2377, 8401 5810

Kongfu – Wen Jie Solo Exhibition

Where: Triumph Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until September 18, daily except Monday 10 am – 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9639

Three Monks

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang
When: Until October 17, daily except Monday 10:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

The Other Shore – Bei Shui Solo Exhibition

Where: Fafa Gallery, 4 Yuyang Lu, Houshayu, Shunyi
When: Until September 30, daily 10:30 am – 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8430 2587



By Li Jing

Yang Shaobin, one of the most important artists in China, just "fetched" 8.96 million yuan for his 2000 piece of work at Beijing's Poly 2008 spring auction. Since the year 2004 he has dedicated himself to a coal mining project. However, such an experimental project seldom generates direct economic value in a short time.

"I never thought I could earn money by doing art. If you keep thinking of money when preparing an exhibition, the exhibition can't be good," Yang said.

With the dream of pursuing art, Yang Shaobin and the Long March Team, started the Coal Mine Project.

The project operated from 2004 to 2008. It went through two phases, with the first one titled "800 Meters Under" and the second "X-Blind Spot."

After the closing of the first phase exhibition in 2006, Yang prepared for a short break. He said that he felt the project had not yet been finished and continued and in late spring Yang with his team drove to Shanxi to start the second phase of the project.

The artist was born in the Kailuan coal-mining district to a coal miner's family. Growing up within a coal-mining community, he witnessed firsthand the lives of miners. At primary school, Yang was inspired by works of art made by these laborers, which led him into painting. However, after graduating from art school in 1983, he returned to his hometown to become a policeman. Having spent his formative years in a coal-mining community, Yang Shaobin returned to this area as a base for this project.

Learning from the first phase, Yang explored the coal mine in a more variable and diverse way for the second phase.

X-Blind



Yang Shaobin at Antaibao Coal Mine



Triumph Art Space



Fafa Gallery



Snapshot from Vedio work in X-Blind Spot





X-Blind Spot NO.14

Spot



Mine



Book talk

Lily Briscoe's Chinese Eyes

The book explores the fascinating Chinese relationship with the famous Bloomsbury set of modernist writers and traces the cross-cultural romance between Virginia Wolf's nephew and a modern Chinese writer. The writer and critic Patricia Laurence from City University of New York talks about her book at the Bookworm.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507

Kid's club

Kid's books are selected and read by Bookworm's own teacher-storytellers to promote a love of reading outside the classroom.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 14, 11 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507



Patricia Laurence, the author of Lily Briscoe's Chinese Eyes

Stage

Concert

Concert of St. Florian Boys Choir

Who: St. Florian Boys Choir

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: September 12-13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-1,000 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Mid-Autumn Concert of Piano and Violin Classics

Who: Sheng Zhongguo and Seta Hiroko

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: September 12, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

The Night of the Full Moon - Mid-autumn Concert for Chinese Traditional Music

Who: Orchestra of China Opera and Dance-Drama Theater

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: September 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-800 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Who: Conducted by Myung-Whun Chung

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 13, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

The Night of the Full Moon

Who: China Central Chinese Ensemble

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Night of Asia -Star-Studded Olympic-Themed Concert

Who: 100 pop stars of Asia

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 16, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

Night in Beijing

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 18, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Bravo to China Concert

Who: Qin Yunyi, Yin Cunmo, Huang Nansong and Shen Jingtao

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 20-21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Zagreb Music Academy Percussion Ensemble

Who: directed by Igor Lesnik

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: September 21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

The East is Red

Who: General Political Department Song and Dance Group

Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 24-25, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Goodbye and Hello: Cai Jianya 2008 Asia Tour Beijing Live

Who: Cai Jianya

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 26, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,000 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

Dance

My Dream

Who: China Disabled People's Performing Arts Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: September 12-14,

Admission: 80-980 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

Opera

Kun Opera: 1699 Peach Blossom Fan

Who: Jiangsu Performance Group

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 12-14, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-400 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Peking Opera: To Conquer the Town of Lu Peacefully

Who: Peking Opera House of Beijing

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: September 21-23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Continued on page 14 ...



... continued from page 13

Nightlife

Morse

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 12, 11 pm
Cost: 50 yuan
Tel: 13321123678

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival celebration
Where: ChinaDoll, F/5 3.3 Building, 33 Sanlitun, Chaoyang
When: September 13, 9 pm
Admission: Free (before 10 pm)

Tel: 5136 5872 ext 111

One step forward

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng
When: August 13, 9 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6617 3231

Mid-Autumn panda party

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
When: September 14, 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Make a feint to the east and attack

tember 20

Cost: 6,200-8,900 yuan
Tel: 8621 6278 (reservations are essential)

Royal Canal boat tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and the daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet in the square of the Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 13, 9 am - 3:30 pm
Cost: 200-350 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Back street Beijing walk: Chongwenmen and Beijing Railway Station

The tour explores hutongs including alleys and courtyard house neighborhoods around Chongwenmen and Beijing Railway Station areas. You will not only see old Beijing lanes and alleys but also the heritage sites and Western and Chinese architecture such as a Catholic church, banks, Ming Dynasty Wall ruins and an ancient observatory from the the Qing Dynasty.

in the west: Beijing free improvisation alliance concert

The purpose of the concert is to provide Chinese musicians with an arena to develop and exchange experiences within the field of improvised music, and to give lovers of improvised music an opportunity to enjoy this type of music in Beijing.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
When: September 17, 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Yasutaka Yoshioka and Moreno Donadel Quartet

Tokyo guitarist-composer Yasutaka Yoshioka has toured the world and released two albums with his own group. He reunites with Beijing-based pianist Donadel Moreno for two shows, showcasing his virtuoso skill, as well as innovative jazz arrangements of traditional Japanese music.

Where: OT Lounge, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 18, 10 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6585 3406

Outdoors

Inner Mongolia grassland weekend cycle tour

Escaping hustling Beijing, you will see layer-upon-layer of swelling hills and grasslands.

When: take the overnight train to Inner Mongolia on September 13 and fly back to Beijing on September 14

Cost: 1,880 yuan
Tel: 13911886524

Seven-day Great Wall hike

This seven-day hike along the Great Wall is designed for Wall lovers. Substantially different from usual short visit, the hike is not only physically challenging but also exciting. You will obtain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Chinese history and culture, as well as man's creative power.

The tour starts from the Old Dragon Head in Hebei Province, the eastern starting point of the Great Wall, to Huangyaguan Pass in Tianjin, and trek on to Simatai, Jinshanling and Gubeikou in Beijing. The sections of the Wall you will visit are typical in architecture, scenery, wilderness, and military importance. The total length of the trek is about 60 kilometers.

When: take the train to Old Dragon Head on September 14 and return on Sep-

tember 20

Cost: 6,200-8,900 yuan
Tel: 8621 6278 (reservations are essential)

Royal Canal boat tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and the daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet in the square of the Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 13, 9 am - 3:30 pm
Cost: 200-350 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Back street Beijing walk: Chongwenmen and Beijing Railway Station

The tour explores hutongs including alleys and courtyard house neighborhoods around Chongwenmen and Beijing Railway Station areas. You will not only see old Beijing lanes and alleys but also the heritage sites and Western and Chinese architecture such as a Catholic church, banks, Ming Dynasty Wall ruins and an ancient observatory from the the Qing Dynasty.



Where: meet in the lobby of Hadenmen Hotel (2A Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen)

When: September 15, 10 am - 1:30 pm
Cost: 150 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

East Qing Tombs in Hebei

Eastern Qing Tombs is the UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site and the largest imperial grave complex with surrounding natural landscape in China.

It is not a just a tour of the under-

ground graves, but a wonderful walk through the beautiful scenery. The mountains and trees are well matched with the awesome processions of arches, pavilions and palace complexes.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: September 14, 9 am - 6:30 pm
Cost: 250 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

Movie

Hiroshima, My Love (Hiroshima Mon Amour)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 12, 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Madame Bovary

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 12, 5 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Pulp Fiction

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng

When: September 12, 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6617 3231

Boomtown Beijing

Where: Bar Blu, 4/F, 5/F Tongli Studio,

Sanlitun Beijie

When: September 13, 5 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6417 4124

The Other Side of the Bed (El Otro Lado de la Cama)

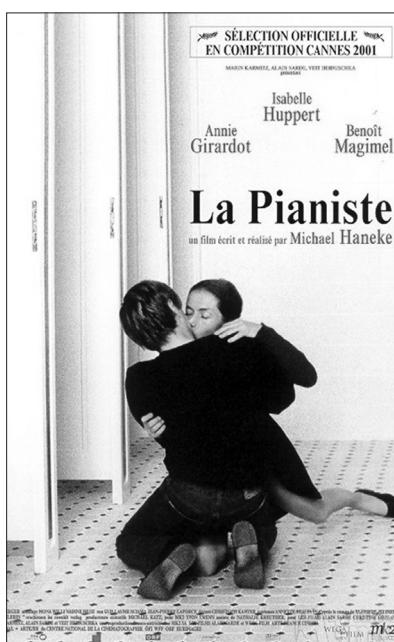
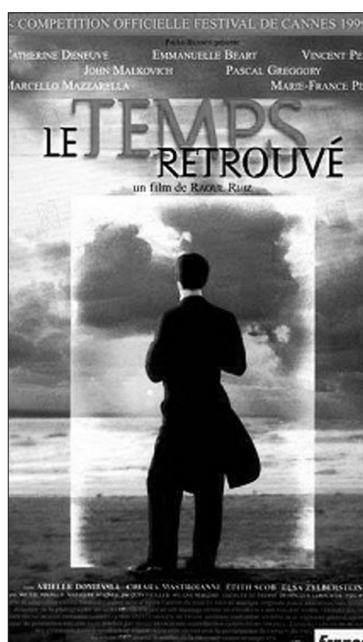
Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 13, 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5879 9666

Time Regained (Le Temps Retrouve)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 13, 5 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

The Piano Teacher (La Pianiste)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcui International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: September 17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Folk Activities

Chinese Grass Weave

Learn to make woven grass crafts.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 14, 2-4 pm

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Mahjong Workshop

Come and learn this most popular game in China and all of Asia.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 13, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Cost: 50-70 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Patchwork Pictures

Traditional Buduihua (patchword pictures), is made of rags with different colors cut, pasted, and embroidered with exquisite patterns. It is most popular in the north of Shaanxi.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 17, 9:30 am - noon

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Ink and wash painting class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian type of brush painting. It is also known as wash painting.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 15, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

tion is important)

Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and conducted in English, covering everything from the meaning and evolution of the characters and culture to the history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 16, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

(By Li Jing)

Book cafes and city sense

By Gan Tian

Bookstores are always a city's trademark in literature and knowledge. Besides the big bookstores and markets, some small book cafes also demonstrate their literary sense in choosing books and creating a lovely environment for the city's busy people. *Beijing Today* seeks out the best.



Only one way to knowledge

By Wang Yu

One Way Street Library is tucked away in a courtyard at the east end of Yuanmingyuan Park. Because of its high reputation in literary circles, it attracts not only Beijingers but avid readers from Hong Kong, Taiwan and abroad.

Named after a book by Walter Benjamin, One Way Street Library features a wide variety of literature on everything from philosophy and history to religion, art design and media.

The bookstore which opened on January 2006, used to be a gallery due to its small display area. The most notable thing about the store's structure is the huge bookshelf which occupies one side of the long wall. On the opposite wall are classic photos of greats like John Lennon, Kurt Cobain and Ernest Hemingway.

There is an area where customers can read books while relaxing in comfortable, big armchairs and sofas with sunlight streaming in. Soft drinks here are cheap and the shop even offers micro-wave ovens.

All of the above elements give the bookstore a homey feeling. It is like a private reading room open to the public. Every week the library invites literary celebrities to give lectures in the courtyard. Second-hand book sales are also available occasionally.

To reach the store, you can go to the east gate of Yuanmingyuan Park and ask the gatekeepers for directions. One Way Street Library has two other branches at the Wanda Business Square and the China Millennium Monument.

One Way Street Library

Where: Mima Design, East gate of Yuanmingyuan Park, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6257 0357



Photo by Wang Yu

Books for all sages

By Milo Lee

Halloween and bookstores ... people rarely connect these two. But there is a bookstore in between Beijing University and Tsinghua University in Haidian District that combines them beautifully. Commonly known as Wansheng Shuyuan, this bookstore has managed to build a huge fan base over the years. Wansheng means Halloween in Chinese.

In Western culture, ghosts are frequently described as being very

wise so the store owner adopted the name and strives to provide the best books for readers. But in Wansheng's early years, readers misunderstood its meaning and thought Wansheng meant 10,000 sages, so to clarify the meaning, the owner then changed its English name to All Sages Bookstore.

As one of the four most prestigious academic bookstores, Wansheng has a strict selection system and not all the books are found on its shelves, partly due to limited

space. Every place that can be used to store books is filled but well-organized and books are displayed in themed categories. The store's target customers are well educated, so junky or mediocre books are non-existent.

On the first floor are books on sale. Readers may find the publishing dates a little old, but if one looks carefully, there are some classics.

Thinker's Bar is located on the second, but do not rush in for a beverage, because right

across from it is a sea of books, meticulously chosen and artfully displayed.

At Wansheng, customers like to wander over to Thinker's Bar after finding their books, order a cup of coffee and spend a lazy afternoon enjoying a great reading in this quiet cafe.

Wansheng Shuyuan

Where: 123 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6276 8748



Photo by Milo Lee

Chaterhouse delivers decent English books

By Zhang Dongya

Chaterhouse Booktrader features a full range of English language books at its two Beijing stores. Opened in late 2006, the branch located in The Place attracts customers to stay even when they only planned on a quick peek.

The Chaterhouse stocks a wide variety of English language books and displays them in detailed categories on shelves including fiction, business, history, biogra-

phies, design, health, food and wine, sports and humor. It offers a complete variety of books especially for those into travel, design and kids' themes.

On the shelf containing new releases are the most popular and recommended books and best sellers including *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult and *Cathy Kelly's Best of Friends*. Assorted magazines that provide the very latest news from abroad are also available.

Since most of the books and magazines are imported from the US and UK, the price is high. There is a cash rebate for members. A cardholder earns five points, which can be used as five yuan on his or her next purchase, for every 100 yuan spent at any Chaterhouse store.

Also, it has a good reputation for a friendly and helpful staff. You can check if the books you want in stock or order titles not in the store.

The Chaterhouse provides two armchairs for readers, so you can just sit and read the books if you think they are too expensive to buy. And, the store is very considerate in providing a small table with soft and cute padded chairs especially for kids.

Chaterhouse

Where: B107, The Place, 9 Guanghualu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6587 1328



Photo by Venus Lee

Sculpting my time

By Venus Lee

Sculpting in Time is a combination of bookstore and cafe. It was named after *Sculpting in Time*, the autobiographical movie about legendary former Soviet Union Filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky that conveyed the theme of retaining time, person, sentiment and memory.

On the stairway, a message board displaying the moving words of guests will greet you. The upstairs

bar has three rooms. The inner one is a smoke-free zone while the other two rooms allow smoking. The orange lighting, melodious country music and fragrant smell of coffee make the bar warm and comfortable. The students nearby the bar are frequent visitors and they prefer to spend their self-study time here. So the bar is always permeated deeply with the atmosphere of learning.

The most featured books and magazines on the shelves of the bar

range from movies, fashion, literature and advertisements to cartoons and philosophy. From Monday to Thursday during the day, it is very tranquil in the bar so that one can enjoy his or her time without being disturbed by a waiter. In addition, favorite jazz or piano musical selections can be requested to be played that suit the bar's atmosphere.

Due to its unique but simple style and atmosphere brimming with humanity and learning, Sculpt-

ing in Time attracts many young people who take many long afternoons and nights reading and writing here. On the weekend, the bar always becomes a youth's gathering place for chatting, birthday parties or wedding ceremonies.

Sculpture in Time

Where: Weigongcun Xi Kou 7, Ligong Da Nan Men, Haidian District

When: 8:30 am – 1 am next day

Tel: 6894 6825

... continued from page 15



Art books galore in a can

By Wang Yu

The Cans Bookshop started as an online bookstore in July 1997 and offered the latest art books from Taiwan. As the shop became more famous and successful, Zheng Naiming, editor-in-chief of the Chinese Art News magazine brought the shop's concept to Beijing and opened the offline shop at 798.

The new shop is set up in an old workshop in 798 and the newly-refurbished yellow building easily attracts the attention.

Tall bookshelves line the walls and ladders are available so customers can reach the top shelves near the ceiling. The decor is a mixture of modern and traditional as the tea service spotlights the shop's theme.

On the second floor there is a special area where visitors can see tea leaves adorning the wall. A

cup of tea and a favorite book constitute a wonderful afternoon at the Cans Bookshop.

The Cans runs like no other in 798. The shop is more concentrated on domestic artists while other bookshops here are recognized for their collections of art books in foreign languages. Painting books from the collection in the Palace Museum in Taipei are also available at Cans.

Though many books here are rare and expensive, the shop still has them displayed on the main table with protective, transparent plastic book covers in order to let the customers peruse them at will.

On occasion, Cans Bookshop stages exhibitions.

The Cans Bookshop

Where: D09-17, 798 Art Zone, Da Shanzi, Chaoyang District
Open: 9:30 am – 6 pm
Tel: 6435 2584
Web site: ecans.com



Photo by Wang Yu



Photo by Zheng Lu

Taking you back to school

By Zheng Lu

Stepping into College Days Coffee is very reminiscent of bygone days spent in an activity room back in college. A huge picture of the Harvard University library commands respect and the boxy desks and chairs fire up memories of old school days.

The smell of lattes brings one out of his dream-like state and back to the present. The average price of coffee here is 25 yuan while ice coffee is priced higher at 28 yuan, still acceptable in the CBD business circle.

An extra bonus for stopping into the cafe is the free use of

five computers to surf the Internet, as well as wireless for notebook users. On the upper level there are some mini meeting rooms where company staffs can hold light-hearted discussions.

The roomy double-decked cafe and the numerous seats scattered in the corners may cause you to pause before deciding since each one offers a different mood. If you like to get some sunshine, the outdoor tables on the first-floor are a good choice. Or revisit the old days on a seat beside the window on the second floor.

The big white book shelves create an atmosphere of a

small college library. More than 3,000 books are on the shelves for readers to choose – some bilingual. On the newspaper racks, recent English newspapers are available.

Seeing the customers at College Days Coffee immersing themselves into their own world makes the scene very attractive to passersby. Reading is something very enjoyable and addictive when seated in big sofas with a cup of coffee in hand.

After a whole afternoon's reading with light background music, your desk can be transformed into a dining table with

the dishes offered here. College Days Coffee offers both Chinese and Western dishes, the manager said. He said things will be completed after the Paralympics.

Overall, College Days Coffee is normally a quiet cafe but it does book parties here almost every week. Since most of the customers are business people, the atmosphere is tailored to their needs to make friends with strangers.

College Days Coffee

Where: Room 0666, 6 Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongshanhan Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 8am – 11pm
Tel: 5900 2415

Be a bookworm

By Han Manman

The Bookworm is not so much a bar as a Beijing institution and now more like an expat community in Beijing.

Set up by the remarkable Englishwoman Alexandra Pearson, who first moved to Beijing with her parents in the 1980s, the Bookworm is a cafe, restaurant, lending library and bookshop that also hosts cultural events such as author talks and

poetry readings. With a collection of over 14,000 books, this is the best place in Beijing to find English-language reading material.

One of the Bookworm's secrets of success is location, tucked behind a wall of green plants down a quiet lane that stretches west off the Sanlitun north bar street. To find it, follow the roadside sign and then your nose filled with the scent of fresh

croissants baking.

The bookshop and lending library (a library card costs 300 yuan a year) are not to be sneezed at in a country where good quality English language books are still hard to come by. Regular talks by authors and journalists provide any additional brain food you might need. The foods and drinks are not expensive. A typical treat of coffee and tea is 15 yuan, which is not bad.

The Bookworm also features free wireless Internet access with plenty of space to set up your computer. Rows of young people earnestly tapping away on laptops give the bar area a rather studious feel.

Bookworm

Where: 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Beijing
Open 9 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6586 9507



Photo by Tian Yufeng

Breathe in O2

By Gan Tian

There are 24-hour McDonalds, 24-hour supermarkets, 24-hour pubs and 24-hour classrooms, but ever heard of a 24-hour bookstore? O2 Bookstore is the perfect place for those midnight cram sessions.

It is the first 24-hour bookstore in town. Located in Wudaokou, the main university area, the bookstore offers something to satisfy everyone. Through the doorway is a shelf which displays the title of the store's current CD background music.

The books cater to bourgeois tastes. The left side of the store contains top magazines, including News Weekly, Global People, TOM and Sanlian Life Weekly. There are also Chinese versions of current best sellers in the center area like *The Dogs of Babel*. On your right, there are many comic books available if that is your fancy.

The towers of books in some stores can be a little intimidating, but not at O2. With its romantic music filling the air, the moment you step inside, it

is like looking at your bedroom bookshelf back home.

"I miss O2," Liu Xuanhua, a Peking University graduate, said. "Its delicate decorations, romantic music and quiet people ... It's the perfect place to go when you need a break." If you have nowhere else to go, head for O2, even if it's in the middle of the night.

O2 has extended its reach into every nook and cranny of the city. Now readers can even find it squeezed into small corners in big shopping malls like Shin Kong Place and Jianwai

SOHO, where readers can find more recommended reading and good coffee.

Everyone knows that O2 is oxygen, the source of life. The store views knowledge as oxygen, and like oxygen, aims to create an atmosphere of learning everywhere. Its goal is to become the most inviting bookstore in town.

O2 Sun Bookstore

Where: Building 1, Huqing Jiayuan, ChengfuLu, Haidian District
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 8286 3032, 8286 3033

Sour and spicy and all things nice



Fried tangyuan in Guizhou style

By Gan Tian

Ever tasted "stir-fried diced chicken with chili and peanuts?" Maybe you have heard of "sour soup fish." Both are cornerstones of Guizhou Cuisine, one of the main divisions of the Chinese culinary world.

Beijing Today serves up a list of the city's best Guizhou dining establishments for this issue.



Photo provided by Honey Honey

Three Guizhouren – an artists' restaurant

By Han Manman

Hidden deep in the SOHO complex, Three Guizhouren brings spicy southern flavor to northern diners. Many chose it not just for its authentic cuisine, but for its artsy, bohemian air.

In contrast to the modern metal and glass of other SOHO sites, Three Guizhouren's interior is filled with natural decor and a small pond adds to the restaurant's ambiance. Its large dining area is decorated with shrubs and lights. Upon entering, diners are greeted by young girls dressed in the costume of the Miao, a minority group in Guizhou and Southern China. Their dresses and headpieces jingle with beautiful silver ornaments as they lead customers to a table.

The menu is a fusion of dishes from all over Guizhou, cooked with less oil and a little less spicy than the dishes in its home province. Beef on Fire features pieces of cooked beef placed over chives on a wire grid on a bed of hot coals.

Must-try dishes include sour fish soup, mouthwatering ultra-tender ribs and the Guizhou



Fried pareribs in Guizhou style

mashed potatoes. The Rice Tofu is a house specialty. The Ants Climbing a Tree, a dish of vermicelli with minced pork, is also highly recommended.

Three artists from Guizhou – a poor province in south central China – arrived in Beijing to sell their paintings in 2003. To pay the bills and prevent homesickness, they opened the 24-hour "Three Guizhouren." Their art careers never took off, but the restaurant's five branches have become very popular.

Three Guizhouren (SOHO)

Where: F1-2, 7 Jianwai SOHO, Guomao, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 2 pm, 5-10 pm
Tel: 5869 0598
Cost: 80 yuan per person



Guizhou fish in sour soup

Photos provided by Emufan

Stories behind the flavor

By Gan Tian

If all the families of Chinese food had to be stripped down to key words, Hunan would be "spicy," Sichuan would be "numb" and Guizhou would be "sour."

Guizhou cuisine is known for sour dishes. Sour pickles are seen in every family of the province and are a key ingredient in hotpot. The pickles are even a famous dish served on their own. The pig thighs and "hot pot with sour soup" are other regional favorites.

With the bright colors and beautiful shapes, dishes on a Guizhou table appear a

work of art. The famous kung pao chicken actually originates in Guizhou, named for Ding Baozhen (1820-1886), a famous figure in Guizhou history and the first to cook diced chicken with hot peppers. Ding Baozhen was once conferred the title of Taizishaobao, the tutor of the crown prince, which is abbreviated to Gongbao, hence the name of the dish.

Wang Shouren, a famous philosopher and educator in the Ming Dynasty, was also called Master Yangming. After being exiled to Longchang, now Xiuwen County, in Guizhou, he was invited to lecture

at Guiyang. During his stay, the chefs frequently cooked chicken wings for him and his audience. The efforts of the many chefs and of following generations have made Yangming Chicken Wings an attractive Guizhou staple.

Si Wawa, Sliced Vegetable Baby, is one of the cheapest snacks. It is called baby because it is shaped like a child in swaddling clothes. Actually it is a thin cake made of flour and stuffed with sliced, cooked vegetables such as carrot, radish and celery. Sour and spicy juices are necessities when tasting Si Wawa.

Honey makes it all tasty

By Milo Lee

Many diners are drawn to Honey Honey because of its owner, Gao Yuanyuan, a famous actress. Though celebrity-owned restaurants are common in Beijing, it's still a fascinating experience for fans.

Honey Honey is a Guizhou restaurant. It pleases northern diners with the small twists it makes on traditional dishes. The food is neither too spicy nor too greasy, just peachy and petit.

Most of the restaurant reviews focus on food, but Honey Honey is more than a place to stuff your belly, its cool color interior design, stylish complements, elegant illumination and transparent beaded curtains create a relaxing space. Giant couches and oval tables, abstract wall plates and weird dead tree branches make the restaurant look like a post-modern living room.

The fancy dining environment only serves to get people ready for the taste of food, after all, Honey Honey is a restaurant. Guizhou Bijie Fried Tangyuan,

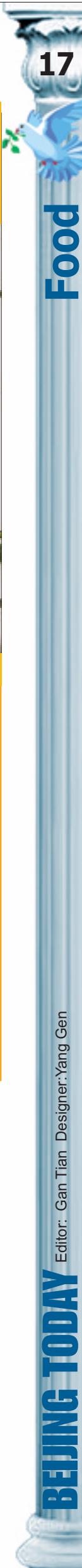
or pickle-flavored fried tangyuan, is one of its many special dishes. Tangyuan is a traditional Chinese food eaten during the Lantern Festival. The cook fries the tangyuan to give them a crispy, tender texture like puff. Another recommended dish is Guizhou Qingyan Green Chili Pepper Tofu. Tofu is usually made from beans, but this dish uses rice and spinach juice, along with some secret ingredients. It tastes a little spicy and vinegary, but is very refreshing.

Dining in a celebrity's restaurant has its advantages. Unlike other celebrity restaurant owners, Gao is not afraid of getting close to customers. When she comes in, she often greets patrons, makes small talk or takes pictures with fans.

Honey Honey Restaurant (Mitao Restaurant)

Where: No 1330, Floor 3, SOHO Shangdu's West Tower, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 5900 3106

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Salted black bean with bracken

Photo by Venus Lee

Dagui, modernized Guizhou cuisine

By Annie Wei

Although dining out is a part of the scene for new couples, deciding on where to go can be a challenge. Choosing the wrong restaurant is a fantastic way to ruin the dating.

Imagine the situation where the man likes northern Chinese food like wheat noodles and meat while the woman is a typical Cantonese lady who mainly prefers fresh and healthy vegetables. The man does not want to pay for an expensive restaurant and the woman will not sit through a date in a smoky, noisy dive.

All the ideas sound like disasters: too noisy, too oily, too stinky, bad imitation food and fake bamboo to fool gullible local customers.

In the end, she agrees to try Dagui, a Guizhou restaurant.

Dagui is close to Yuyang Hotel, north of the Canadian and Australia embassies. There is a canoe and a small path surrounded by trees, good for a walk after dinner.

The restaurant has a white wall with two red lanterns outside. It looks very clean, with simple tables and chairs, white walls, round mirrors on the wall and a bar-like counter.

The menu has a basic selection of typical Guizhou food, especially hotpot. Gui-

zhou chefs are known for using peppers to prepare hot and fragrant dishes, like stir-fried diced chicken with chili and peanuts and sour dishes.

The sour fish hotpot is a must taste. Guizhou families are famous for making sour pickles which help promote the secretion of saliva.

The size of each dish is small, but enough for two persons. The sweetened yam is 15 yuan and the lotus root runs 16 yuan. There are not many Chinese restaurants serving lotus root, but it is a good food that provides relief in the summer heat.

The tofu salad at 15 yuan is one of Guizhou's most famous snacks. Rice is soaked in water and ground, then the cook can shape it into tofu by boiling off the water. Complete the table with a sour dish hot pot and two bowls of rice.

Dagui offers a nice meal at a reasonable price.

Other recommended dishes:

Qing village sticky rice, 22 yuan

Baked pepper with pre-

served egg, 10 yuan

Village style eel, 36 yuan

Red bean ice, 22 yuan

Da Gui

Where: Xinyuan Xili Dong

Jie, Chaoyang

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8448 4600



Village style eel

Photo by Ding Chunhan

Miao Aduo

By Venus Lee

Qian, the old name for Guizhou cuisine, includes dishes from Guiyang, Qianbei and other minority areas. The province's cuisine reached maturation some 600 years ago with sour and spicy its dominant flavors.

Miao Aduo's ingredients are transported from Guizhou Province, so the dishes retain their original flavor.

Suantangyu is the most common dish in any Guizhou restaurant, and Miao Aduo is no exception. The broth is made from wild tomatoes and bamboo shoots processed with salt water. The fish is boiled in the soup and dipped in a special sauce made from preserved bean curd, parsley and hot pepper. Suancaichaotangyuan is Miao Aduo's most creative dish. It is cooked with pickled green mustard and glutinous rice dumplings. Miao-jia Midoufu is another popular dish made from processed soybeans cooked with rice and cognac.

Other famous dishes are Miao-jia Juegenfen, Mala Moyu, Miao-jia Shaoqiezi, Suantang Jungu, Shuidouchijuecai and Zheereng Chaolarou.

The dining environment brims with Miao culture. Silver ornaments, wax prints, embroidery and bamboo baskets are used to decorate the restaurant.

Miao Aduo

Where: 1 Xinkang Jie, Deshengmen Wai Dajie, Xicheng (north opposite Erpao Zongyuan)

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6012 8811

Miao's soup, sour and hot

By He Jianwei

"A girl who can not cook sour soup can not find a good husband," according to one Guizhou Province saying. The region is famous for its sour and hot dishes.

Gu Yelang Guizhou Fish in Sour Soup is located behind Chaoyang Culture Center at Xiaozhuang. Yelang was a minor kingdom in Guizhou famous for a diplomatic farce in which its king, convinced Yelang was the greatest, asked the Han (202 BC - 220 AD) emperor's envoy, "Which is greater, Yelang or Han?" The story is the origin of the Chinese idiom "Yelang thinks too highly of itself."

With a spacious dining room and exotic decor like wax prints, ethnic embroideries, woven bamboo and pan pipes, the restaurant offers a respite in the downtown hustle and bustle.

Suantangyu, fish in sour soup, is delicious and tastes identical to the soup served in Kaili, the Miao hometown. The soup is made of wild tomatoes and glutinous rice powder. All the ingredients are



Guizhou fish in sour soup

spiced and fermented in a large jar for more than a month.

Taste the soup before eating the fish. It is sour and a little spicy. It is a Guizhou tradition that he who doesn't drink suantangyu soup once a day cannot be strong.

Historically, due to Guizhou's remote geographic position and lack of adequate transportation routes, people there tended to preserve salt and smoke their meat to increase its shelf life.

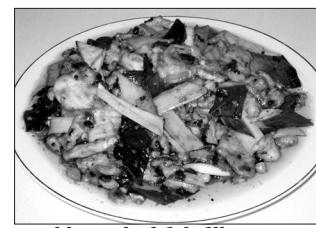
Gu Yelang Guizhou Fish

Where: 8 Jintai Xi Lu, Xiaozhuang, Chaoyang

Open: 10:30 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6501 4038

Guizhou delicacy from Huaxi



Double-cooked fish fillets

Photo provided by Zuizaihuaxi

The restaurant was opened by a pure Guizhou local, and it is usually crowded with diners from the province.

Besides sour fish soup, a traditional dish in Guizhou cuisine, it is also noted for hot pot and twice-cooked fish fillets. The fillets are marinated with salt and rice wine, then stir fried with special sauces, including pepper and sweet sauce. The dish tastes mellow and a little hot and sweet with a unique fragrance. Stewed chicken with soybean is its most served hotpot base.

Diners can also enjoy other Guizhou dishes such as spicy chicken, roast beef with sour radish and hot and sour stewed chicken. The restaurants kuding tea is a noteworthy addition to any meal.

Zuizaihuaxi

Where: 10-7 Xingguangdadao, Dongsanhan Nan Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11 am - 10 pm

Tel: 5862 3190

Find a cool world in water

Downtown – Miyun – Wengxizhuang – Qinglianggu Valley

By Jackie Zhang

The journey from to Miyun District takes two hours. Follow the Jingcheng Expressway to the district, then head north from downtown Miyun for 15 minutes to Wengxizhuang Road. Turn left and enter an area with beautiful scenery. High poplars line the roadside.

Wuzulou Forest Park is at the east end of Yunmeng Mountain. From the mountaintop, visitors can see the Miyun Reservoir and the Great Wall. It is a nice place for camping, photographing and painting.

There are dozens of ponds in Heilongtan resort. Heilongtan is the first pond in the resort. Its waterfall drops 30 meters.

The "First Waterfall in east Beijing" is 3 kilometers north of Heilongtan. The falls are steep enough where visitors will hear the falls before they come into view.

Jinglinggu Valley and Qinglianggu Valley are at the end of the route. In both resorts, there are plenty of springs and waterfalls.

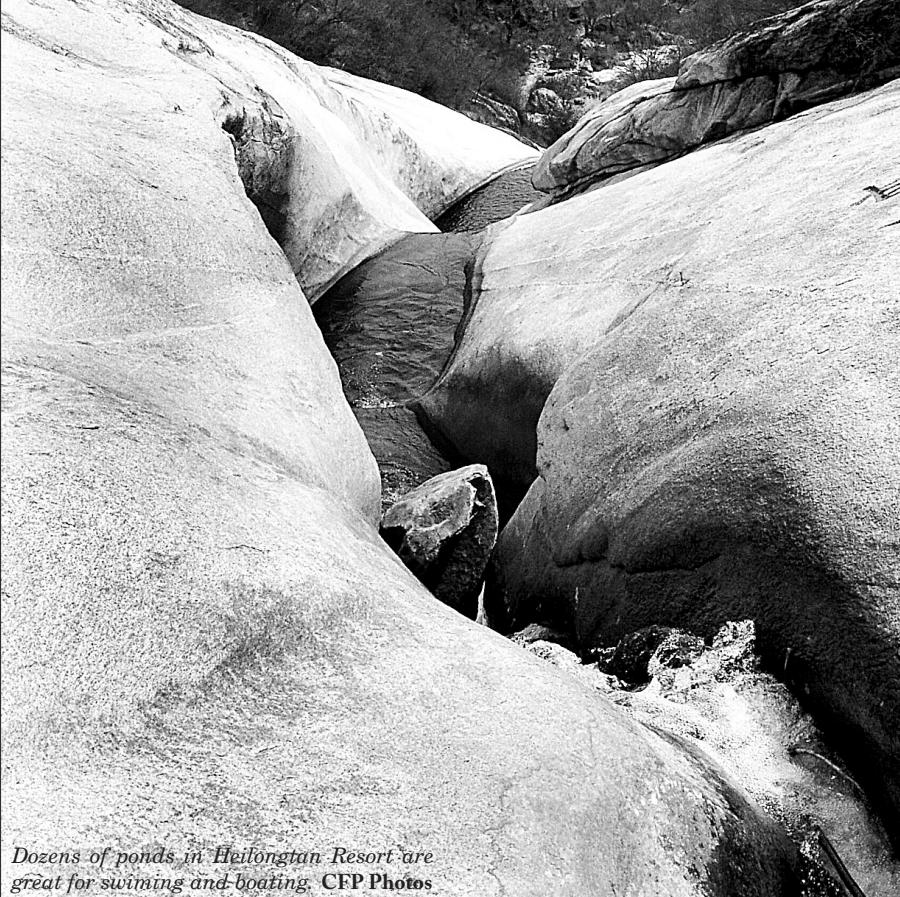
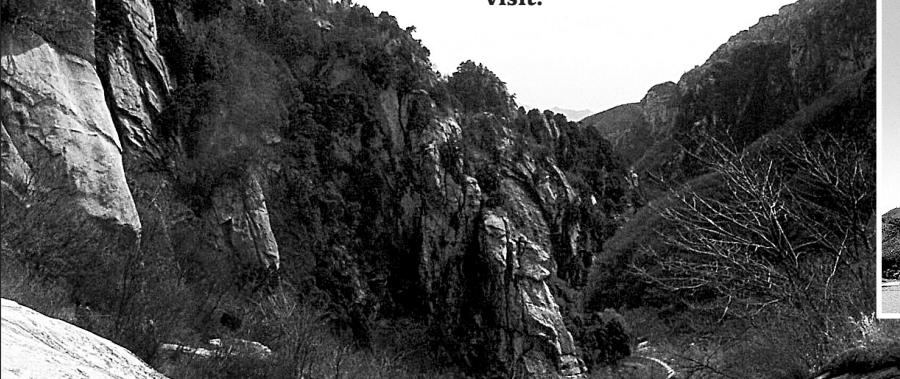


Qinglianggu Valley

8 routes for exploring the outskirts

By He Jianwei
Autumn is Beijing's best season for travel. The climate is cool and the sun is bright. Take a day or two off work to visit the city's outskirts, climbs its mountains, follow its rivers and enjoy the autumn sights.

Beijing
Today selected eight routes, each of which is worth a one or two-day visit.



Dozens of ponds in Heilongtan Resort are great for swimming and boating. CFP Photos

Tasting fresh rainbow trout

Downtown – Huairou – Shentangyu - Lianquanxianggu

Upon reaching Yanqi Huandao, turn west and follow the road to the northwest. Green mountains and valleys line the road side.

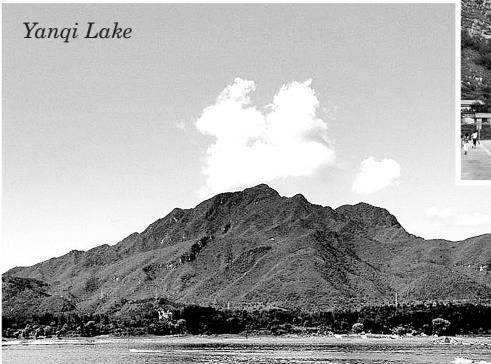
Shentangyu Resort includes mountains, rivers, cliffs and sections of the Great Wall. The air quality at the resort is better than anywhere else in Beijing. Yanqi River crosses the area. Its spring here flows continuously throughout the year as it feeds Yanqi Lake.

Lianquanxianggu is named for its numerous valleys and waterfalls. The main peak is called Heitufeng and is almost 1,900 meters high. Climbing to the top gives a view of Beijing proper. Siheyuans and Mongolian yurts are

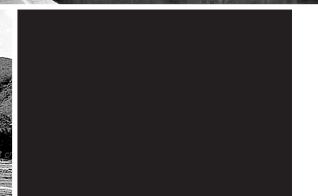


available for visitors seeking to stay the night.

Huairou District is famous for its rainbow trout. Many tourists come only to taste fresh trout. All the villages have restaurants and family hotels, in which rainbow trout dishes are available. Rainbow trout are famous for tender meat. Whether roasted, steamed or braised, it will not disappoint.



Diaowocun Village



Uninterrupted scenery

Downtown – Huairou – Yanmeng Mountain

Drive from Sanyuanqiao on the east Third Ring Road to the northeast of the city. Turn north at Kuliushu Huandao to reach Huairou District. The trip takes an hour and a half. Continue driving north along the Jingfeng Highway for 10 minutes to arrive at Yanqi Huandao.

Yanqi Lake is the first major sight. The limpid water is home to flocks of swans in spring and autumn and their stopover is the origin of its name. It is home to fish, shrimp and tortoises. Three sides of the lake are surrounded by mountains. Some of the valuable protected animals include the giant salamander.

After Yanqi Lake comes Qinglongxia Gorge, the Baiquan, Shimen and Ziyun mountains and Yunmeng Mountain Forest Park. The scenery in Qinglongxia Gorge is grand and beautiful. Yunmeng Mountain Forest Park is famous for four features – large numbers of rocks and pine trees in strange shapes, numerous caves, springs and waterfalls and old trees and plants.

Experience local village life

Downtown – Pinggu – Diaowocun Village

You can get to Shunyi District from downtown on Jingshun Road. Then, drive from Shunyi to Pinggu District. There are many roads in Shunyi that lead to Pinggu, including roads 305, 206 and 331. The drive takes two hours. Drive east from downtown Pinggu to the Jingdongda-rongdong Cross and then, turn north. Drive past the Huangsongyu Reservoir to Diaowocun Village.

Diaowocun's environment is beautiful, with green trees and colorful flowers. Gorges, caves, valleys and Jinhai Lake are near the village. Tourists can not only pick up plants and fruits, but also can tour the village's different resorts. All through the year, tourists can taste fresh vegetables and fruits. In September, walnuts and chestnuts are in season. In October, you can taste newly-picked persimmons. Food provided in family hotels are planted by villagers. They raise chicks and climb mountains to pick potherb and mushrooms. Chefs are invited to the village to roast sheep.

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Tianmo Desert

IC Photos

Yesanpo

CFP Photo



Desert and Reservoir

Downtown – Donghuayuan – Guanting Reservoir

An hour north along the Badaling Expressway will get you to Donghuayuan town. There is a desert to the southeast.

At the west end of Beijing, the Tianmo Desert links together the Badaling Great Wall and the Kangxi Grassland.

There are two sand dunes. The east dune is 300 meters long from north to south and the west is nearly 1,000 meters long. Both of dunes are more than 100 meters wide and 30 high.

The scenic spot is at the foot of the Qipan Mountains in the south and beside the Guanting Reservoir on the north. The combination of the Tianmo Desert, mountains, grassy marshland and Gobi makes for a spectacular sight at sunset. There is no source of sand for several hundred kilometers, so the origin of the dunes remains a mystery.

Tianmo Desert is also a famous location for film and television. Scenes from more than 100 films and television plays have been shot there.

Enjoy sand skiing, horse racing, a bonfire party and riding camels in the desert. Tianmo Desert is not far from the dam of the Guanting

Reservoir to the west. Tourists can drift into the valley on the Yongding River.

The Yongding River was originally called the Wuding, or Unstable River, and was a frequent source of floods. It was renamed Yongding by Emperor Kangxi of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), who hoped to fix the river with the power of his words. However, the river remained unsafe until October 1951, when construction began on the Guanting Reservoir. Three years later, construction ended with the river cut through the middle.

Along the banks of the Yongding River valley are many scenic spots, such as the ancient battlefield where the warriors of the Yangs in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) fought for Youzhou, Yixiantian, Stone Bridge, Wooden Bridge, Cable Bridge, the No 1 Tower in Asia, Three-Immortals Cave and Seven Gate Towers where Qi Jiguang, a Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) hero, guarded the frontier pass.

The best season for going down the Yongding River is from May 1 to October 20 every year.

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Picturesque valleys

Downtown – Shidu – Yesanpo

The scenic Shi Du region is located 100 kilometers from downtown Beijing. Drive two and a half hours to Shidu along Jingshi Expressway.

Shidu refers to the scenic stretch of the Juma River, southwest of Beijing. Sometimes called the "Guilin of North China," the karst gorge is drier and less mystical than southern China's famous wonders. This winding stretch of the river used to necessitate crossings on ten ferries; hence the name Shidu or "ten crossings."

Covering 300 square kilometers, it features dramatic karst limestone formations, craggy mountains and winding gullies. The area is like a beautifully-painted corridor; crystal clear rivers cut through the mountains, and water pools can be found at the foot of the slopes. Historic sites and cultural relics dot the natural scenery.

There's hiking, swimming and boating in the area, but be prepared for touristy activities like shopping, donkey riding and beach volleyball. Extreme sports enthusiasts might be interested in two bungee jump sites and some exciting rock climbing.

From Shidu to Yesanpo, it will take an hour. The Yesanpo county scenic spot is divided into a canyon, Bai Caopan the primeval forest and the Juma River summer vacation area.

Bailixia Gorge is one of the main attractions of the area. It is 105 meters at its deepest point. It is known as "Nature's Studio" because of its beautiful mountains and valleys.

Bailixia is referred to as "the first gorge in the world" and is a four-star national park. Well-maintained paths lead hikers through lush valleys and breathtaking waterfalls. In the spring, crabapple trees bloom add their sweet fragrance to the clean mountain air. The hike is mildly challenging, but there are men who will, for a fee, carry you up the mountain on colorful stretchers.

Near the top is a 600-step staircase that will knock the stuffing out of just about anyone. A sign at the start says, "Climbing these steps will test your will power." A nearby cable car will definitely test your fears as you are suspended over the valley at heights that will turn your knees to mush.

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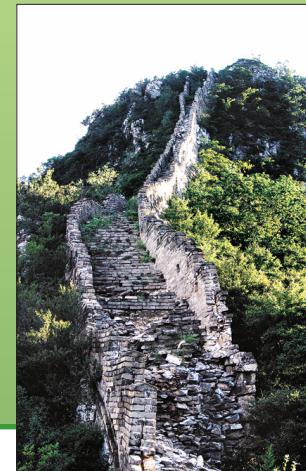
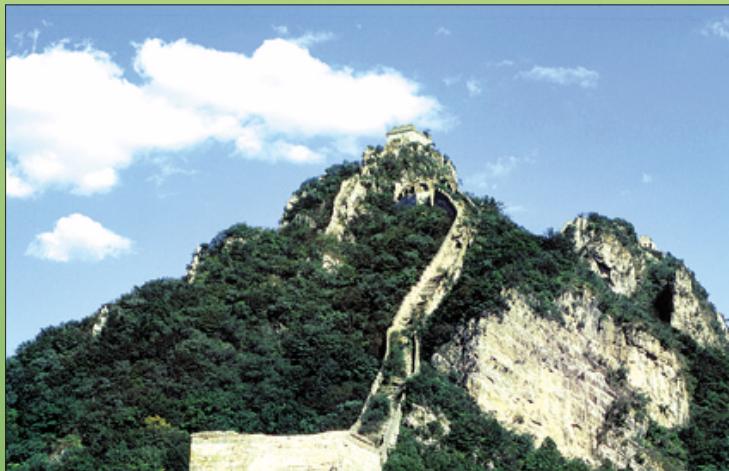
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Jiankou Great Wall
CFP Photos



Wild Great Wall

Downtown – Huairou – Jiankou Great Wall

From Sanyuan Qiao, driver 80 kilometers along Jingmi Lu to Xizhazi county in Huairou District.

The Jiankou Great Wall connects with the Mutianyu Great Wall 10 kilometers to the east, and with Huanghuacheng Great Wall to the west. This section was built in 1368 during the Ming Dynasty. The Jiankou Great Wall is regarded by some as the most picturesque section.

The Jiankou Great Wall is constructed from large, white hill rock which makes it noticeable from a distance. The major section is built along a mountain ridge with large cliffs on each side. Due to the lack of repairs, it is now one of the most dangerous sections.

There are several scenic sites that tourists must see, one of which is the enemy observation tower known as "The Eagle Flies Facing Upward." This observation tower appears extremely high as it was built on a mountain which forms

the highest section of the Jiankou Great Wall. When an eagle flies there, it can only do so facing upwards before reaching the top of the tower.

The Sky Stairs is another famous scenic spot. At this location of the Wall, the stairs go practically straight up, and they are so narrow that it is barely possible to obtain a foothold.

Other scenic areas include the Beijing Knot, which is the meeting point for three different converging sections of the Great Wall, the Nine-Eye Tower, a watchtower with nine holes like eyes, the Zhengbei Tower, a good place to watch the sunrise, sunset and the Cloud Stairs, a section of the Jiankou Great Wall which rises like a staircase into the white clouds.

Tourists standing on the top of the Jiankou Great Wall will always experience different scenes in all directions regardless of the hour, the seasons or the weather.

There are no admission costs or tickets required to

climb the Jiankou Great Wall or to visit the Mutianyu Scenic Spot.

Tourists can also visit Wofo Mountain Resort, where there is an Ancient Dragon Pool formed by springs at the foot of the mountain, and which contains the biggest breeding place for North China's rainbow mountain trout.

When climbing the mountain from Wofo Mountain Resort, you can reach Jiankou Great Wall in one day, or you can spend the night near Zhengbei Tower and travel on to Mutianyu.

Alternatively, climb the mountain from Wofo Mountain Resort directly to The Eagle Flies Facing Upward Tower, then descend the mountain from Xizhazi Village. This route is a two-day journey.

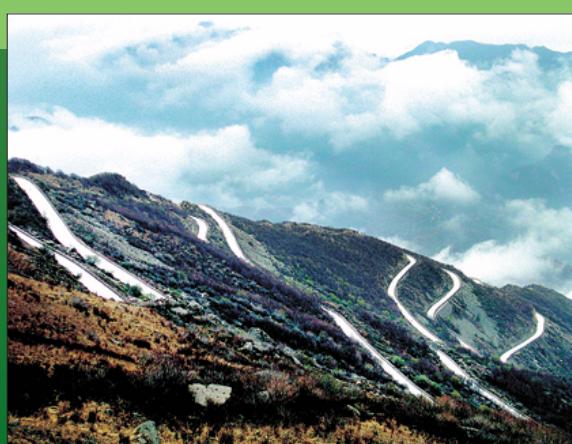
There is no water available along the Jiankou Great Wall route, so you must pack water to last two days if traveling by the first route. If traveling by the second route, then water is available at Xizhazi Village.

Animals and plants

Baihua Mountain – Tibet Museum

Baihua Mountain, located in Mentougou District, belongs to the Xiaowutai range, the northern part of the Taihang Mountains. It is 100 kilometers from the downtown and easily accessible. Around 70 percent of the area is under the operation and management of the reserve. The main peak is 2,000 meters above sea level and Baicaopan, the highest peak, rises 2,049 meters above sea level.

Baihua Mountain is rich in animals and plants and is called the Natural Garden of North China with four categories of vegetation and 10 forest communities. It has 1,100 species of plants, including 400 species of medicinal herbs. Its 170 kinds of animals include those under the first-level of



national protection such as leopards, brown-eared pheasants, black storks and golden eagles. The goral and koklass pheasant are under second-level protection.

Baihua Mountain has a complicated topography. Its sites were formed by geologi-

cal movement, ancient seas, glaciers, rockfall and more.

Embraced by mountains, Baihua enjoys unique scenery and a moderate climate. Its enormous peaks dot the landscape, streams flow into the valley, rare flowers, grasses, birds and animals

live in the area. The tourism resources in Baihua Mountain can be divided into 35 scenic spots in four scenic areas, including the main peak area, Baihua meadow area, Wanghai Tower area and Baicaopan area.

Famous spots such as the steep hill path, smiling flowers, ancient glacier, flowing clouds, sunrise on mountain top and omnipresent light of Buddha are comparable to sights on Huashan, famous for its winding paths, Huangshan for its vast cloud sea, Taishan for its splendid sunrise, Tianshan for its ancient glaciers and Emei for its florid light of Buddha.

Baihua Mountain is famous in Beijing. Li Keyong, a warlord of Later Tang in the Five Dynasties Period

(907-960), had a pavilion built there for military use. In the Ming Dynasty the Dragon King and Ruiyun temples were built in the area.

Baihua Mountain Natural Scenic Area was officially opened to tourists in 1992. Reception facilities including 300 beds of various grades, restaurants and recreational facilities are available.

Lingshan Mountain in Mentougou District is the capital's highest. At the foot of Lingshan is a Tibet Museum Park owned by a professor Xu Fengxiang.

Xu built a wooden cabin to exhibit her research on Tibetan plants. Its sister cabin in Tibet continues to research plants and educate children about the environment.



Recruitment – Making the right impression



ClarkMorgan
Corporate Training

By Naomi Saunders

In recent years hiring the right talent has risen in importance in the business world. In correlation, the role of the Human Resource (HR) department has risen from an administrative function to one of the key components of any successful business. For your company to reach the top, you must employ the best staff available. With the boom in China's economy there is tremendous competition between HR departments to attract the most skilled and experienced staff. Of course, offering an excellent salary package and good working conditions will attract people to your organization, but your recruitment process and especially the impression the candidate receives during his interview will play a large part in his or her decision-making process.

I was discussing this situation recently with the chief representative of a foreign enterprise here in China and she described a job interview she endured as a young

professional. The interviewer gave her the impression she was taking up too much of his time and he had better things to do.

He did not give his name but only introduced himself as the "department manager." He began the interview by quickly introducing his company by describing the profit it made in the previous year. The interviewer assumed a very dominant position by sitting behind his wide desk in a large luxurious office chair while the interviewee was subjected to a lower, wooden-backed chair, which she compared to a child's. After 15 minutes of tough questioning, my client decided she had enough, did not want the job and promptly made an excuse to leave. Not only did she refuse to ever work for that company but she also advised all of her friends against applying there.

This story illustrates the power of first impressions and that the interview is a two-way process. In order to

make a great first impression and secure the hire, follow this advice.

1. Be prepared: Make sure you are ready for the interview by preparing questions, a copy of the candidate's CV and some interesting company literature such as a magazine or brochure.

2. Look good: You expect a potential employee to look professional and you should, too. Wear a suit and make sure you are clean-shaven (for men) or with tidy hair and make-up (for women).

3. Use good body language: Introduce yourself (by name) with a good, firm handshake and a warm smile. Angle your body so you are sitting at an angle toward the candidate, not directly opposite. Nod and smile as the candidate answers your questions, this will encourage them to open-up and give you an accurate impression.

4. Introduce your company well: Explain why it is so great to work at your company. Do not only men-

tion profit but any awards or accolades you have received. Moreover, try to make the introduction personal; tell the candidate what you like. Perhaps you love the company culture, teambuilding dinners or free shuttle bus. This will give the candidate a deeper impression of what it means to work for your company.

By using the above techniques you will be one step closer to signing a contract with your ideal hire. Basically, if the candidate likes you and you like your company, then the candidate will feel excited about joining your team. This can mean more than a higher salary package and when a job hunter is faced with a choice between two equal salaries, a good first impression is bound to seal the deal in your favor. Having the right talent can mean the difference between success and failure, both for you as a manager and for your company as a whole. Be certain you make the right impression during your next interview.



Naomi Saunders is the Beijing Marketing Manager of ClarkMorgan

Dining



Signature Chinese Tea Sensation

With the coming of autumn, Lobby Lounge offers a selection of best signature Chinese teas, which are meant to be savored and enjoyed at leisure in the opulence of its imperial palace-inspired surroundings to the accompaniment of live classical music.

Guests may enjoy the spectacle of the precise rituals involved in the preparation and presentation of tea produced from China's famed tea-growing provinces. From Taiping in Anhui and Anxi in Fujian to Sichuan and Yunnan, each tea has been selected for its premium taste. Not to be missed are the delightful miniature pastries created by China World Hotel's award-winning pastry team paired with such sensational teas as plum tart, pear tart and peach tart.

This offer is valid until September 30.

Where: Lobby Lounge, China World Hotel, Jian-guomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

Tel: 6505 2266 ext 37

Month of Red

In September, the CBD offers a mouth-watering spread of weekly changing menus, from which you can choose lamb, venison and pork.

Where: CBD, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dong-san-huan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6530 9383

Australian Veal Promotion

This September, the precious veal from Australia arrived at The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing.

The calves are raised exclusively on their mothers' milk from birth in the warm and mild pastures of the Northern Rivers region of Australia. Their pink meat, has the smell of milk and satiny white fat without any tinge of red.

Where: the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, 10 Dongsan-huan Bei Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 6:10:30 pm

Tel: 6590 5566 ext 2119



Aviation

Emirates' first class service applauded

Emirates' premium in-flight service and state-of-the-art facilities received top honors at the Golden Wing Awards 2008, as the airline was presented the prestigious "Best First Class" award.

Co-founded by the Oriental Morning Post and the globally-authoritative magazine Travel + Leisure (Chinese edition), the Golden Wing Awards steps into its second year running. The awards are determined by a professional jury panel as well as online votes polled by Chinese netizens.

Prior to the 2008 Olympic Games, Emirates enhanced its Beijing service by introducing the Airbus A340-500 aircraft equipped with first class suites.

Emirates' first class cabin service is available on its double-daily service to Beijing and Shanghai. First Class will be introduced on the new direct service to Guangzhou.

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

Stadium offers more than sport

By Jackie Zhang

Beijing Workers' Stadium is a major center for various sports events, especially football games. Around the stadium, bars, restaurants and clubs have sprouted up one after another for several years. Foreigners come for the sports and stay for the nightlife entertainment.

The clubs along Gongti Xi Lu are sure to satisfy the nightlife seeker. The Baby Face, Cargo Club and Queen Club are area hot spots. Food in both Chinese and foreign flavors is available nearby. Opposite the French Cultural Center at Gongti Xi Lu, a French-style cafe, La Taverne provides French leisure.

It is also a fun place for children. The Blue Zoo Aquarium showcases thousands of marine creatures. The Fundazzle children's garden gives kids an indoor space to play and learn craft-making.



China Lounge

Delicate China Lounge

By Gan Tian

China Lounge's sign is by the south gate of the Worker's Stadium. Much of the long, winding path leading up to its door is all part of the restaurant, even the manicured grass and muddy walkway. It is a romantic green spot in an otherwise steel and iron community.

Delicacy is the main theme to describe China Lodge. The three-story restaurant is full of surprises. The menus are made from the ox-skin paper and knotted. They are like readable souvenirs provided in Chinese, English, and Japanese.

The Barbecued Eel gives the stomach a wonderful seafood adventure. They taste like they were fried and barbecued at the same time. The adventure does not have to end there, follow it up with Roasted Cod with Korean Spicy Sauce.

China Lounge

Where: inside the south gate of the Worker's Stadium
Open: 11 am - 11 pm
Average cost: 150 yuan per person
Tel: 6501 1166



Underwater performances take place every afternoon in the Blue Zoo.
CFP Photo

The subterranean aquarium

By Jackie Zhang

The Blue Zoo is the first walk-through five-star aquarium in Beijing, established in 1998 in conjunction with New Zealand. It has a 120-meter long crystal tunnel through which visitors can walk and watch undersea plants and animals.

The aquarium was constructed beneath a man-made lake beside Workers' Stadium. The main attraction in the aquarium is the central tank which holds 3.5 million liters of salt water. A complete eco-system has been created in it to allow thousands of fish to live in as natural an environment as possible.

Its 2,000 ocean and marine creatures are grouped into six categories, including sharks, rays, eels and lobsters. Another 18 tanks feature themed displays, including sea horses, Amazon freshwater fish, coral reefs, mollusks and shells.

Adding to the attraction of the underground aquarium itself is the daily excitement of watching divers feed the fish and sharks twice a day. The Blue Zoo Beijing's aquarium is a world-class complex featuring the latest in aquarium technology.

An educational center is staffed by teachers in the Blue Zoo, who host lectures and audio visual pre-

sentations. The Beijing Science and Technology Association listed the Blue Zoo as a must-see for the city's school children.

In addition, specific display areas have been set aside in the complex to provide information on endangered sea species important to China, including the famed fresh water dolphins of the Yangtze River.

Baby Face

Where: south gate of Workers' Stadium
Open: 9 am - 6 pm (Monday - Thursday), 9 am - 8 pm (Friday - Sunday)
Admission: 75 yuan per person
Tel: 6591 3397

From cafe roots to classy restaurant

By Gan Tian

Metro Cafe began its life in 1995 as a casual cafe, but a 12-year journey steered it onto the course of a formal dining establishment.

"In 1995, there weren't many private places for foreigners and expats in the city to go to. Metro Cafe was the most popular private cafe at that time, and we specialized in Italian food," Jin Yu, the manager of the cafe, said. Today, the "cafe" description is hardly fitting.

While the name "Metro" may conjure up unfortunate images of the subway or the latest "metrosexual" trends, Jin said it was intended to mean "public gathering" - a place for local to get together.

Unlike many foreign restaurants, Metro's menu is a lengthy four pages. Jin said it boasts 20 kinds of pasta. The king prawn fried in olive oil with garlic, chili and anchovies with a splash of vinegar can be served with Metro's own spicy tomato salsa. The lamb chops with garlic rosemary sauce or chunky tomato sauce with garlic and olive aren't to be missed either.

Jin said the food is more important than the environment at Metro. Like the city it's a place to live, eat and meet friends, and there's always something new in store for every visit.

Metro Cafe

Where: 9 Gongti Xi Lu
Open: 11:30 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6552 7828

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Other hot spots

La Taverne

La Taverne was originally called the "Far Away Cafe," but is now known by its French name. Christophe Rovan, the cafe owner, said the new title makes it more French.

All the tables are decorated with red and white-checkered tablecloths. Movie posters hang on the white walls. The wooden tables and chairs perfectly match the wooden liquor shelf. The garden outside is another setting in which to enjoy a meal.

The cafe's owner wants to make the store a place for the

French community to watch movies and read books. Come to La Taverne if a French holiday is out of the budget. It is never too far away.

La Taverne

"Far Away Cafe"
Where: 7 Gongti Xi Lu
Open: 11 am - 11 pm
Tel: 6551 8967

Pizza Buona

This small pizzeria has inconspicuous outdoor decorations. The restaurant is quiet, decorated in a countryside style. Pizzas are thin and crisp and made with various materials. The salad offerings are very

diverse, and the bacon potato salad is highly recommended. Some people complain the drink and snack menu is too limited. Pizza Buona delivers for free.

Pizza Buona

Where: 7 Gongti Xi Lu
Open: 12:30 pm - midnight
Tel: 6551 3518

Fundazzle

It is the largest indoor children's playground in China. It is open for children under 12 years old. Children under age six can get an early educational experience here with their parents. Teachers and admin-

istrators in the garden are professionals in education and children's psychology.

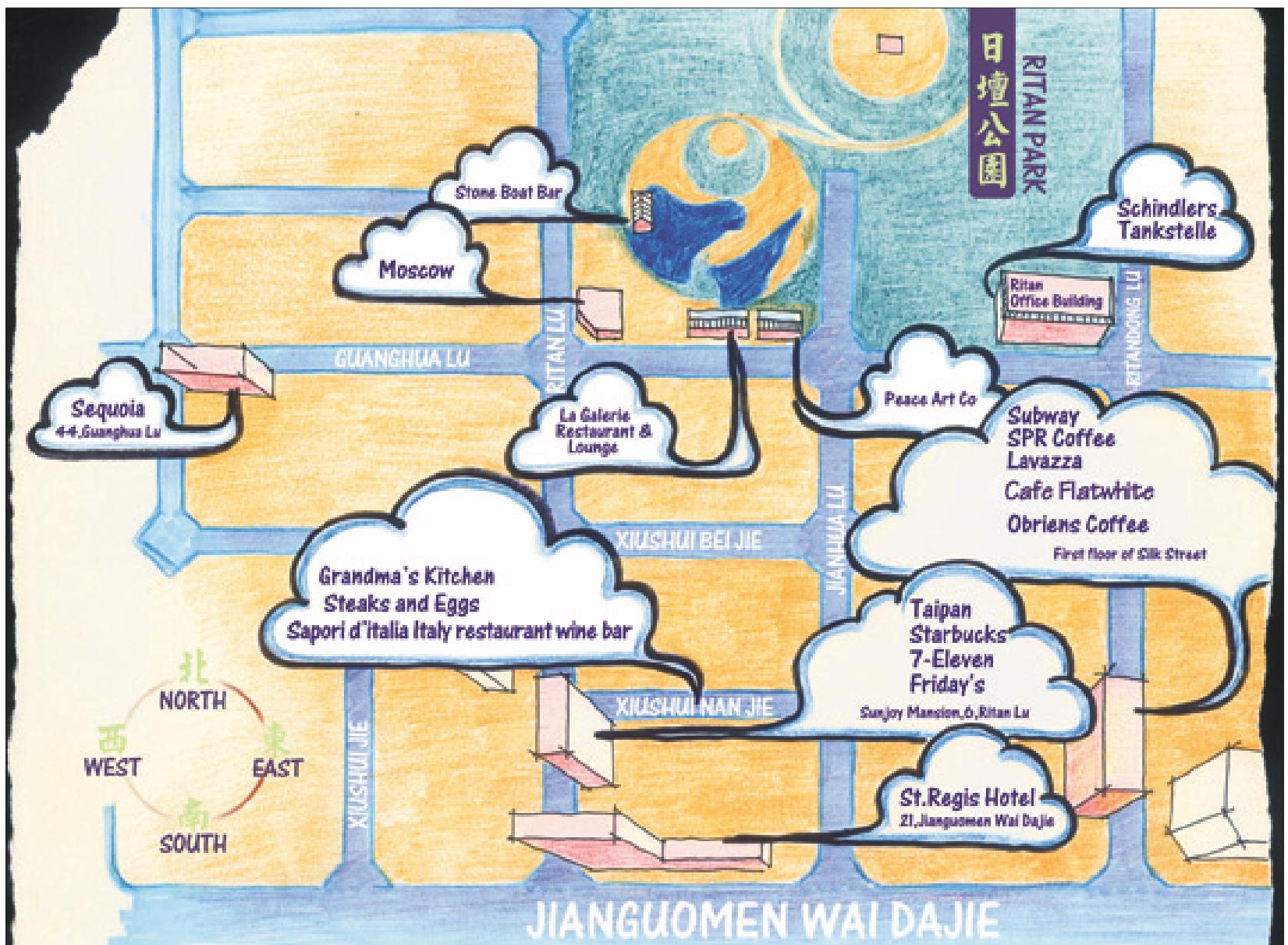
There is a two-story jungle gym, trampolines and a toddler area with cars, swings, seesaws and houses. On weekends, counselors perform and teach arts and crafts.

Fundazzle

Where: 14 Gongti Nan Lu
Open: 9 am - 5:30 pm (Monday to Friday), 9 am - 7:30 (weekend and holidays)
Admission: 30 yuan per child for two hours, 15 per adult
Tel: 6506 9066

(By Jackie Zhang)

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**Xiushui Nan Jie****Grandma's Kitchen**

Where: 11 Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang
Open: 7:30 am – 11:30 pm
Tel: 6503 2893

Steaks and Eggs

A great spot for expats who want Western food on the weekend. The wait staff is known for being colorful characters.
Where: 5 Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang
Open: 7:30 am – 10:30 pm; weekends 7:30 am – midnight
Tel: 5820 2670

Saporid'Italia Italy restaurant wine bar

It has a smaller entrance than other

restaurants on the street, but it is one of the most popular for Italian visitors.

Where: 17 Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6593 2079

Cafe Oriental Taipan

The bakery items on the first floor are half off after 8 pm. Congee served after 11 pm is made in traditional and priced reasonably.

Where: Second floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6585 3478

Starbucks

Open: 7 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6595 4675

7-Eleven

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 24 hours

Friday's

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu
Open: 11:30 am – midnight
Tel: 8526 3388

St. Regis Hotel

Situated in the heart of the business, shopping and diplomatic districts, it is the hotel of choice for the world's most discerning traveler.
Where: 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie
Open: 24 hours
Tel: 6460 6688

**Silk Street****Subway**

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 7:30 am – 10 pm
Tel: 5169 8896

SPR Coffee

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 8:30 am – 11 pm
Tel: 5169 8411

Lavazza

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 9 am – 10:30 pm
Tel: 5169 8870

Obriens Coffee

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 8:30 am – 10:30 pm
Tel: 5169 9298

Cafe Flatwhite

Where: First floor of Silk Street
Open: 9 am – 11 pm
Tel: 5169 9156

Guanghua Lu**Schindlers Tankstelle**

The restaurant is like an underground cellar complete with dim lighting. Diners chat cheerfully while they enjoy home-style German foods, like sausage and Erdinger.
Where: West 888, Ritan Office Building, 15 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 11 am – 1 am next day
Tel: 8562 6439

Peace Art Co

Where: 17 Guanghua Lu
Open: 9:30 am – midnight
Tel: 8562 2680

La Galerie Restaurant & Lounge

It is in a traditional courtyard, with lovely paths and tall, old trees. It is a wonderful place for a pot of tea and Cantonese snacks.
Where: West of south gate of Ritan Park, Guanghua Lu
Open: 10 am – 3 pm, 5 – 10:30 pm
Cost: 200 yuan per person
Tel: 8562 8698

Moscow

Where: southwest corner of Ritan Park
Open: 11 am – 3 am next day
Cost: 100 yuan per person
Tel: 6586 3217

Stone Boat Bar

The bar is inside a faux Qing Dynasty boat in Ritan Park. But, during summer, the activities move outside.
Where: Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Southeast end of the lake
Open: 10 am – 11 pm
Tel: 6501 9986

Sequoia

It serves nice muffins, sandwiches and good coffee. Sequoia also holds wine tasting events.
Where: 44 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 8 am – 8 pm
Tel: 6501 5503

(By Jackie Zhang)